

# The WEEKLY REPORT

ANORAKS

*The First with the News in Print*

No. 243.....7th January 1989.

P.O. Box 539, BLACKPOOL FY1 4RE, England.

London.....15th August 1967.....The AM waveband empty.....Just Radio Caroline continues - Reason : The British government brings in a vicious act to outlaw offshore radio without consultation with the people or immediately replacing the lost services. More than twenty years on and several broken promises later, they are still reluctant to give communities real access to the airwaves

Blackpool.....Sunday 1st January 1989.....The AM waveband empty.....More than 40 frequencies are devoid of life.....Just Radio Dublin and Radio Star Country continue - Reason : Irish government legislates against existing 'alternative commercial network' before any replacements are on the air. Let us hope that promises from the Irish government on the expansion in radio, are not as hollow as those in the U.K. and that they do not follow in the footsteps of the United Kingdom!!

May we start off issue 243 by wishing everyone a happy and prosperous new year, although as most readers will know, free radio-wise, the new year has not got off to a good start. The story of the closure of the Irish stations, as heard on those audible here in Blackpool is within this bumper edition.

We welcome readers, both old and new to the first issue of Weekly Report for another year. 1989 is the seventh year we have been printing WR which started out as a resume of events following the great Irish radio station raids of May 1983. One thing is for certain however, we have never found ourselves short of news in all the time we have been 'on the road', and despite the recent closure of virtually all the Irish pirates, we see no reason for this happening in the future. The reason for this is the fact that we have so many contributors in all areas, who make sure that very little misses making these pages. As we have said before, without them, WR would be far less comprehensive than it is today.

1989 looks like holding plenty of surprises in store for us all.... Radio Caroline will hopefully celebrate 25 years in existence, the Irish radio scene will take on a completely new look (will there still be pirates there? - we all ask), what will happen in the U.K? - will the Government make any drastic moves to give us more choice? Short wave conditions should continue to improve and no doubt lots more good things will happen, which we hope to report on, along with the bad ones, unfortunately.

Happy 1989 everyone, especially all our friends and colleagues on the radio in Ireland who have given us and so many thousands of people, so much pleasure over the last decade, and longer in some cases. We should like to wish them all the success in the world with whatever they find themselves doing. To everyone else, good listening, good broadcasting and good reading.

**COST:** The price of this weekly news-sheet (and cuttings) posted, is as follows... U.K. - First Class, 40p... U.K. - Second Class, 35p... E.E.C. (inc. Eire), 40p... European (non - E.E.C., but posted at full rate), 45p... Rest of the world (Air Mail), 55p. You may subscribe for as many weeks as you wish at the above appropriate rate.

**PAYMENT:** Any method will be acceptable, but no foreign coins, we ask. Irish postage stamps may now pose a problem with disposal, so, an Irish cheque, P.O. or banknotes will be more welcome. By the way, if anyone does require some Irish 28p stamps, we still have ample supplies. All instruments must be made payable to 'Anoraks U.K.' Our PostGiro account number is 12 141 6909 and we take Access and Visa too!

**INFO - LINE:** Ring Bradford (0274) 480590 for the most up to date news. A three minute message is available from 19:00 until 07:00 only, for the time being.

**NEW MERCHANDISE:** OFF SHORE No. 47, the magazine of the Caroline Radio Club in Holland is now in stock. This issue has 24 pages and the text is mainly written in the Dutch language, although there are some English articles, as well as photographs about the offshore radio scene. Cost is £2.00 including postage and packing.

All subscribers should receive along with this issue, the latest merchandise list (please note that we have scrapped the order forms, due to cost), also our sales booklet. We

usually run this for the month of January only, but as it is likely to be after 10th January before anyone receives a copy, we thought we had better extend it to the end of February, then our foreign subscribers will not miss out, as mail can often take several days longer to reach foreign parts.

The Wavelength magazine which was reviewed just before Christmas was actually No. 24, and not 25 as we printed. The price is still 90p including postage and packing.

And finally, we have, for the last time, some Kiss FM (Monaghan) Car Stickers for sale. The colourful stickers, sponsored by the drink firm Pernod, feature their own and the Kiss logo and frequency in five colours. They are the exterior type, adhesive paper and cost 25p each or 5 for £1.

**NEW ARRIVALS:** <<FRS \* GOES \* DX>> was the first magazine to arrive after the Christmas holiday. This publication just seems to get better and better with each edition. The latest (issue 78) has a coloured stiff cover and 24 well presented pages of up to date news and information covering SW, Offshore and Satellite broadcasting. 'Focus on', 'Flashback' and 'FRS Holland Annual Report' complete this festive edition. Send today for details to FRS, Postbus 41, 7700 AA Dedemsvaart, The Netherlands.... Now Radio, issue 89 arrived promptly on the 29th and its 20 pages were devoted to legal radio. Details... P.O. Box 45, Kettering, Northants. NN16 0NW.... Radiotex, issue 140. Just 4 x A5 pages in this final edition of 1988, with two pages devoted to the previous two week's SW logs and two pages to SW news. Details from RT., c/o Duempter Strasse 6, D - 4100 Duisburg 12, West Germany.... Play-DX, issues 529 & 530. Lots of long distance logs and international news in each. Details from Dario Monferini, via Davanzati 8, 20158 Milano, Italy.... Radio Brief Magazine, issue 35. Brief and 'most reliable' (4 x A4 sides of news etc., Caroline, London scene and more) but what's more, it's free! A normal size SAE please to RB., 8 Skardu Road, London NW2 3ER. (Outside U.K... 3 x IRC's).... Freewave Magazine, issue 172, the festive edition with 24 pages of general European radio and TV news. Neat A5 magazine, but all in the Dutch language. Details Hans Knot, Postbus 102, 9700 AC Groningen, Holland.... CLCG Magazin, issue 138. A wad of A4 photo-copied sheets generally about radio in Germany but also covering SW pirates. Details.. CLCG, Postfach 540101, D - 4100 Duisburg 11, West Germany.... finally this session, Marine Broadcast News, issue 9 arrived. 20 x single sided A4 sheets very neatly assembled in a binder with a picture cover. Word processed and all about offshore, of course. Worth checking out. Price £1.30 (£1.70 outside U.K.) from MBN, P.O. Box 963, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 6ED.

**RADIO STATION NEWS:** Any items appearing in this magazine may be used on the air or in any publications, as long as they are credited to Anoraks U.K., P.O. Box 539, Blackpool FY1 4RE, England.

**LEGISLATION IN IRELAND:** (Is this the end?)

Limited listening over the festive period did not exactly help matters a great deal, but some of the stations realised the same thing and announced closure times of other than at midnight on 31st. We noted that Super Q 102, Kiss FM and Sunshine 101 had brought their close-downs forward

to 18:00 on 30th. Eamon Cooke, in his address to the country on Christmas Day (only second to the Queen's speech in this household!), stated that **Radio Dublin** would continue after midnight on 31st, but even he sounded a bit depressed and thought they would not last long. He said he would switch off FM and continue on 1188kHz. (he failed to mention SW), if they were raided, they would return quite quickly on FM and if they were subsequently raided, then that would be that. He mentioned that old tapes may be played as the deejays would not wish to risk being prosecuted. He said that some stations in Co. Donegal planned to continue and mentioned **WABC** in particular. He said he knew of no others, but we learned later that **Radio Star Country** and **Radio North** both planned to continue.

In the period between the two holidays, Q and Sunshine were logged for information as to their plans. Little was said on either station until nearer the time and both continued with their diet of 'Hot Hits'. Sunshine regularly played 'Ain't No Sunshine When She's Gone' and ran a promo featuring the voices of Dublin listeners, the theme being 'Sunshine belongs to the people of Dublin'. They, of course, are hoping for a licence at some future time. Mid-week and heavy promotion was given to an event on Thursday 29th, at 15:00 when 8,000 balloons were to be released from their head office at 8 Lower Baggott Street in the city. This event marked eight very successful years and the start of the very final 27 hours of broadcasting. Station owner, Robbie Robinson made a short speech at this time, to the thousands who had assembled outside the offices. He said each balloon represented a little bit of fun that everyone had had since the station started over eight years ago. He asked all to join him at 09:00 next morning and said the final eight hours would be very special. He also said that if anyone wished to travel the eight or so miles north of the city to the studios at the Sands Hotel, Portmarnock, next day, they would be made very welcome indeed.

The Q jocks who speak slightly more than the Sunshine ones, made odd mentions about the closure, and played a quite dramatic promo featuring U2's 'New Year's Day', with emphasis on the line 'all is quiet on new year's day' and how there would nothing on the radio. Further promos for a broadcasting college were noted (the owner has stated that he has no wish to apply for a licence), which will be where the present studios are now. Another promo featured all the high spots of the station over the years, the official opening, giveaways, eye in the sky, etc. The adverts continued unabated on both stations, needless to say.

A news bulletin on **Boyneside Radio** at 17:00 and 18:02 on 29th, stated.... "The owner of one of Dublin's longest reigning pirate stations is to take constitutional action against the Irish Government for attempting to close down his business. Mr Eamon Cooke of Radio Dublin is taking the action under two sections of the constitution, in which he alleges firstly that the Government is discriminating against Dubliners and secondly, denying them the right to work. Mr Cooke added that once the papers have been lodged with the High Court, he will defy the new Broadcasting Act which outlaws pirate stations and continue to operate after the Saturday midnight deadline. What Mr Cooke is saying is that the Government, by allowing people in the west of Ireland to continue with their pirate deflectors / TV systems, are discriminating against the 75 radio operators in the rest of the country. The Minister he said, is making one law for one section of the community and another law for the rest of us. Mr Burke, he said, was also denying people the right to work. As the pirate stations prepared to close down at midnight on Saturday, with thousands of people unsure about their future employment, Mr Cooke said he would continue broadcasting".

The national service, RTE's Millenium Radio got a two month reprieve ('to fill the void in Dublin') and proceeded to promote none other than 'The Bop Hop!!!' (At the end of the final Be-Bop Gold on Sunshine 101 with Nails Mahoney, it was announced that the name 'Be-Bop Gold' was copyright Sunshine Productions 1989.) Nails Mahoney is hosting this new version of the oldies show each Sunday from 09:00 till 14:00. It would seem extremely unlikely that a deal had been struck between RTE and Sunshine, but just goes to show who did have the listeners, at least on Sundays. Perhaps one cannot blame them for jumping on an empty bandwagon, no doubt it will keep a few people happy for a few hours.

**Co. Monaghan**. This looked like being an area to keep an eye on. Who would relish the thought of patrolling the

notorious border area looking to lock up a few souls providing entertainment for thousands. After getting back on the air on 1413kHz., **Kiss FM** lost the use of both AM transmitters a few days before Christmas. Both 1413 and 1170 went off at the same time, and it was thought that a power loss was the problem. 1413kHz. came alive again on Thursday 28th December, but this was not to last long as the powerful transmitter quietly went off without announcement at 14:00 on 29th. According to a spokesman, the landlord of the site was asking for the next portion of the rent. Obviously it was not worth paying any amount out, just for 24 hours, so off it went, which is a shame for the long distance listeners, of whom there were many we believe, all over Europe. At least they could have heard one station close down, for themselves. It was said that the studios will remain in Monaghan town, 'in mothballs', in readiness for a licensed operator to move in, whether it be Kiss or any other successful applicant, but within hours of closure these had been gutted, contradicting what had been forecast. Staff would generally disperse, with the exception of the more senior ones, who would be preparing their case for legalisation. The Voice of Peace was mentioned, so it is possible that Abie's staff shortage could be alleviated a little here. The station entered the final 24 hours on 103.7MHz. and possibly on 1170kHz., although the latter could not be heard here. Due to simply not having enough receivers and antennas, the station was not logged on the final day (Friday), but we understand from staff on the station that it went well with Nick Richards and Con McConville doing a quite 'over the top' final show. Dennis Murray handled quite a large portion of the day and station manager, Tom Hardy wound it all up, until 18:00.

**Co. Cork**, **Radio ERI** (1305kHz.) were still doing exceptionally well in the city, which wasn't surprising as they had the largest coverage area of any of the other operations. Mark Edwards was only on the air at weekends. The line-up during the first week of December was... Tony Maynor (for George Talbot)... 12:00 Steve O'Neill... 17:00 John Rice... 20:00 Mark Lawrence... On Wednesday between 11:00 and 13:00 was Joe O'Reilly with the Cork report, during which Joe and Katie Johnston read the news. The station was also understood to have a new set of jingles. Like the bigger stations in Dublin, little reference was being made to December 31st, or what the station would be doing in the new year. **South Coast Radio** (98.5) appear to have dropped power a lot and could not be heard as far out of Cork City as they used to. **WKLR** meanwhile, seemed to be talking a lot about 'D-Day' on December 31st. WKLR themselves were going to close on 30th December. Keith York had hosted a few shows recently, but the last current line-up was... 07:00 Con McCarty... 09:00 'Good Morning Cork' with Jimmy Hayes (Ann Creedon on Tuesday)... 11:00 Keith York for Paul Sheehan... 13:00 John Greene... 16:30 Tim Coughlan... 20:00-07:00 Tapes. **Radio Nova International** were relayed recently for a couple of weeks, but the station received a number of complaints as the format was so different to that of WKLR. They had thus reverted back to tapes.

**THE FINAL COUNTDOWN:** The start of the big switch off came on Friday 30th December 1988. At 09:00, **Sunshine 101** began a nine hour final show. Starting with 1980, each hour featured a subsequent year in the life of the station. The best records of that year were played along with jingles, promos and a brief history of the station during that year. Current and former deejays and staff of Sunshine came in to say a final few words, and others who were unable to be there telephoned in to say their farewells. A selected number of adverts were aired on this day, the money received for these was donated to the Wireless For The Blind organisation. Across on **Super Q 102** the Whitney Houston promotion 'The Way We Were' (featuring the highlights of the station), continued to be played throughout the day and, as with Sunshine, both current and former presenters popped in to have a chat. The first station to actually go off the air in Dublin was **Sunshine 101**, with station owner Robbie Robinson live in the studio, giving a moving speech before the final record 'Bridge Over Troubled Waters' by Simon and Garfunkel was played (the two station 'theme tunes', "You Are My Sunshine" by the O'Jays and "Desiderata" by Les Crane were played just prior to this), followed by silence at 18:00. **Super Q 102** were also going off at this time, but at 17:46, Pierre Doyle, owner of the station, came live on the air (for the very first time) to say his goodbyes, and announced that although closedown was officially at 18:00,

"news is coming in on the wires, that we have just got a sponsor, a major sponsor, Sony (Ireland), who insist that we stay open for a further six hours, with no advertising, nothing, just wall to wall. Sony want us on the air, we're going to the death!". Pierre then went on to thank everybody involved with the station. There was silence for a few minutes after 18:00, but then continuous music resumed until late in the evening (on just two frequencies at the end). Treble T.R. Radio, the long running country and Irish station, continued until midnight on the 30th, being closed down fairly quietly by the regular presenter, but including a close down announcement by station owner, Jimmy Smith. Reports in tell us that Smile FM closed at midnight on Friday and Heartbeat FM at 00:15, Saturday morning. Further north, Pulsar 98 / Fingal Community Radio closed at midnight Friday. No reports are at hand concerning B.L.B. Community Radio, but a correspondent tells us that further south, Viking Radio in Wicklow quietly vanished, with little fuss.

At 18:00 on Friday 30th December, whilst Sunshine and Super Q were closing in Dublin, one of the newest, but biggest stations broadcasting to the North, KISS FM was also in its final minutes. Unfortunately, due to them not being on AM (reasons mentioned earlier) we were unable to listen ourselves. However we understand that station manager Tom Hardy did the closing speech at around 18:00, and then a microphone was placed outside the studio window, to pick up the sound of people in the street cheering and blowing their car horns. Radio Star Country from the same town continued however, and Big 'M' Community Radio seemed to be playing non stop music on Saturday, although officially close late Friday. We have no reports about Hometown Radio. In Cavan, CCR and Breffni went Friday, Erneside late Saturday, in Westmeath, West went late Friday.

Up in Donegal, despite announcing they would carry on, WABC (101.7) closed at 16:00 on Friday 30th. However later in the evening, the carrier was noted back on and with modulation a little later still. A loop tape then announced the following... "This is WABC FM. This radio station officially closed down at 4 o'clock this afternoon. However, since then there have been some legal developments in Dublin. Mr. Eamon Cooke, owner of Radio Dublin went to the High Court against the radio legislation. He was granted leave to appeal against it, and he did appeal and it seems that he won the appeal. Now it would seem that this winning of the appeal puts the radio legislation on ice, renders it somewhat in-operative. Radio North, NWCR have both announced that they are staying on the air, however we are trying to find out more information on exactly what the result of the court case means. It could mean that WABC will be returning to the airwaves, but we are not sure. We have been trying for several hours now to gain more solid information, and we will continue to do so". As Sunshine 101 signed off, 846kHz. became clear and Radio North from Donegal came booming in here. The station was taking telephone calls of congratulations from listeners, as it was announced they would carry on into the new year. However this jubilation was not to last, as the news coming out of Dublin had obviously been distorted along the line. In fact, Eamon had gone to the High Court attempting to obtain an injunction to stop the up and coming radio legislation becoming law, thus preventing the closures. The Judge stated however, that he could not interfere with the workings of the Dail, and dismissed the case. The confusing part then came, as the Judge then stated, that Eamon was quite in order to challenge the constitutionality of certain sections of the Wireless Telegraphy Act, and action to this effect should be taken at the earliest possible moment. As a result, Radio Dublin announced that they would be finishing 'live programmes' at midnight on Saturday 31st December 1988, but the station would continue, probably with tapes.

Saturday dawned, and the band was already well depleted on this final day of 1988. First to close was one of the oldest stations in the country, Dundalk's Telstar Community Radio on 1197kHz. Their closure came at 13:00, and was the most emotional we heard. Owner of the station, Damien Keenan, began to read out his speech live on air, and at first this went fine. However emotions then began to creep in, and by the end he sounded in tears - and who wouldn't be after seeing so many years hard work come to an end at the stroke of a government pen. Next to go, at 14:00, were KITS (100.9MHz./837kHz.) in Monaghan, but due to poor FM conditions, we were unable to hear them. We were also unable to hear Zee 103 close.

The Boyneside Radio closure came at 15:00 (and was also heard across Europe on shortwave 6205 and 6231kHz), but before this was the final 'Green Scene' hosted by Heady Eddie, a show popular on both sides of the 'wet bit', and which will be sadly missed by many. For the last two hours of the 1305kHz. Drogheda service, there was an excellent programme in which many present and former station staff came in to tell a few stories about the past 10 years of the station. Old station extracts and promos were also played. The whole team assembled next door to the studio and Eddie took each one in turn and let him or her say a few words. More and more turned up as the finale got under way and even advertisers and members of the public were heard on air. Loud applause and cheers were noted with each popular personality, whether broadcaster or advertiser. A short statement from station owner, Eobhan McDonald, for whom everyone without exception had good words, was read out and the station closed with 'Desiderata' by Les Crane, a tune used by many stations but none as long as Boyneside (1979). Across in Navan, Tina Alexander hosted a two hour closedown of her own, having been on the air in this town, on both Radio Carousel and Boyneside for the past seven years. Her final farewell also came at 15:00. The Northern service at Carrickcarnon, on 1233kHz. continued, but due to poor conditions we were unable to ascertain when they actually went off. Rainbow Radio (Carrickcarnon) went at 20:00 on Friday night.

In Limerick, one place from where we rarely received a signal, our correspondents stated that close-downs would be..... Power 98 (Sound Channel)... 19:00 on 30th, Radio Vera... 24:00 on 31st, Radio Munster... 24:00 on 31st and Galtee Radio... 16:00 on 30th. Radio Luimni closed down on 23rd December. Apparently it was quite an emotional end to John 'The Man' Frawley's final show at 11:15. He ended nearly in tears at the end of almost twelve years on the air in Limerick. Power 98, the station with most chance of a licence, planned their last day to run as follows... 00:00 Nova Night Network... 07:00 Darren O'Brien.... 10:00 John Moloney.... 12:30 Stuart Clark.... 16:00 Steve Philips.... 18:00 Documentary of the station's history.... 19:00 Close-down. It seemed quite strange to some that two British nationals should close down a Limerick owned and based station. Further reports to follow, hopefully.

Finally on closedowns, in Cork, Radio ERI went at 00:15, Saturday morning and although we have no reports as yet, South Coast Radio, NCCR and WKLR in Bandon did likewise. Tony Allan was understood to be involved with the latter's. Nothing has been heard from Waterford yet, nor Kerry and Galway. KCR in Kilkenny went at 19:00 on Saturday.

New Year's Day. Yes, all was quiet! In fact the band was empty with just two exceptions.... a very distorted signal on 1188kHz. (Radio Dublin) playing tapes, and a better signal on 891kHz. from Monaghan town (Radio Star Country), also playing tapes, including a country song about the closure. Later in the day however, both stations went live and in the case of Dublin, the signal improved dramatically. Incidentally, the reason for the poor signal from Dublin was because they were not using their big rig, as they did not wish to lose it, instead, are using a small stand-by job together with the SW transmitter. This situation continued with both signals very reasonable by mid week. In both cases, almost normal programmes were noted at times, although no adverts were heard on Dublin. Amongst the recorded shows, World Music Radio tapes were heard on several occasions, particularly during the night. Star Country carried many adverts and it was as if the news of legislation had not yet reached that quarter!

We are now awaiting the outcome of events in court to see what happens next. Perhaps the authorities are too? Follow the action in next week's issue!

LATEST NEWS: Just in... from RTE Radio 2 news at 07:30 on Thursday 5th.... "Prohibition notices under the Broadcasting Act have been served on Telecom Eireann and the ESB in relation to Radio Dublin. Similar notices are expected to be issued later today in relation to Radio Monaghan. It's to stop the organisations from supplying services to illegal stations". After Minister Burke stated that the full force of the law would be brought against any station continuing, their first reaction to the rebels, seems to be that the government are wary of the consequences of raiding either of these two stations, and are attempting to take the easy way out - at least to begin with. Very latest is that Radio Dublin are now back on FM (101.2MHz).

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Definately finally in Ireland, Radio North in Co. Donegal, returned to the air on Thursday evening (5th) on 97.9MHz. A loop tape was played saying that the station would be on soon. This was later changed to say 10:00 on Friday (6th), but it wasn't until 10:37 that live programmes started up. The medium wave transmitter on 846kHz was also on the air by this time, putting out its usually good signal. WABC (101.7) are presently deciding whether to return this weekend, so keep tuned to their frequency. Could this see a mass return to the airwaves?

#### LAND-BASED STATIONS : U.K.

Renfrewshire / Glasgow. Stations heard in this area over the past couple of weeks include the Paisley Free Broadcasting Service (P.F.B.S.) (99.65), KLT Radio (105.5) and Riverside Radio (103.5). Riverside were testing and announcing that full programmes would begin in January. Just KLT Radio (Saturday) were heard over the New Year weekend.

Merseyside. Radio Merseywaves (1242) returned with full programmes over the Christmas weekend, but after this programming became a little erratic, and over the New Year period, either blank carriers or nothing at all was noted. The station was reported as heard during the evenings however. Storeton Community Radio (1026) programmed over both weekends, and are currently using an address of 52 Clee Hill Road, Prenton, Birkenhead, Merseyside L42 8EA. Also on the air for a substantial period was North Coast Radio (1350). All three stations, when on, put out very good signals.

- On FM, Veronica 104 (104.75) were noted with Neil Frazer programming, on the morning of Christmas Eve. Others active include ABC-FM (105.5) on 20th and 21st December and CD-FM (105.2) most evenings before Christmas. Horizon were expected with tests on 102MHz., Friday 23rd December and Concept Radio were on the air Sunday 18th December on a new channel of 97.75MHz.

Manchester / Cheshire. Just three stations have been monitored recently, these being WBLS (102.4), Laser 103.5 (103.7) and Unity Radio 104.8). Viewpoint 96.3 were also noted with religious programming on 96.35 on Sunday evenings.

Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. S.T.S. Radio (94.6) were active on both Saturday (17th) and Sunday (18th) December with both signal and audio improvements. The station has no shortage of presenters, with two hour shows being the norm and transmission times seem to have been lengthened. A special Xmas Day programme was announced.

The Midlands. Activity has been very high in this area for many weeks. However, Enterprise FM has apparently decided to go off the air on 31st Decemebr and haven't been heard since. The 24 hour operators left on are Radio P.C.R.L. (103.5) and Powerhouse Radio (105.3), the latter whom are getting out exceptionally well at the moment. Also monitored every day, but not 24 hours, were Local Black Country Radio (105.95) and Skyline Radio (94.3). A new station, Metro Radio (104.95) appeared on 24th December, and carried through until 27th. Fresh FM (95.0) had an extended schedule, beginning early Saturday morning (24th) and ran through into the new year. Quest FM were heard on 31st/1st/2nd, on 104.0MHz. Others heard include Powersound Radio (100.25)(29th) and Ad Radio (106.3-testing). On MW, U.K. Radio were active on 1413kHz on 24th, 25th and 26th December. The station was also monitored for a time on 1251kHz (31st) and 105.6MHz(31st/1st). Across in Shropshire WR (105.5) made a Christmas Day broadcast, and Sunshine Radio (1017kHz) operated just on Boxing Day. James Harding and Roger Matthews were noted on air.

Bristol. Just a short note this time, as a detailed look at December will be forthcoming courtesy of Terry, in the next issue. Radio F.T.P. (103.7-stereo) were announcing they would close on 31st December in preparation for a license. Emergency Radio (97.9) and Savage Yet Tender Radio (104.4-stereo) were both on as normal up to Christmas, but Rough and Wicked Radio (104.95) was last heard on the evening of Monday 12th December.

Nottingham. Our correspondent in Yorkshire is currently having trouble receiving Heatwave Community Radio due to the appearance of Rapid FM from Leeds who also operate on 105.1MHz. H.C.R. however have been on as normal during the whole holiday period with the exception of an hour on 23rd when they made a location change in order to attempt to get the signal out to the north a little better. The court case on 19th December was again adjourned, this time to an unspecified date. Mentions of the Heatwave

first birthday during February have been made, although the exact date is not known. Things were going well, but at 10:00 on Wednesday 4th January, the DTI struck again, and took away the transmitter. They were back the following day in order to publicise the 'Miss lovely legs of Nottingham' (shortest skirt will win!), which was being hosted by 'VIP Commander B - The Squadron Leader of the FM Dial'. He was to later do a show on H.C.R.

Yorkshire, Humberside & Derbyshire. The DTI were active in Bradford just prior to Christmas, and raided Paradise City Radio twice in three days. On the second attempt, a sledgehammer is understood to have been used to force open the door, but the DTO were greeted with a guard dog (Rottweiler) which apparently sank its teeth into a DTI man's leg. The DTI and 4 police retreated outside and were kept at bay for five minutes until they were eventually let in. All the DTI took was the 50 watt transmitter (the audio gear was saved by disguising it as Christmas presents!) The injured DTI man was taken to hospital for stitches in his leg. The station was off the air for a day and then returned. Perhaps the raids were caused by an announcement on the station on 14th December, stating that a high power tx would be installed on 1st January, and would enable them to cover a much wider area, possibly into Lancashire and down to Sheffield! The other Bradford station, Harmony Radio (105.3) continued without any problems and operates 24 hours per day with a varied music format. They have a telephone number for requests, of 491079.

In Leeds activity has been a little thin on the ground over the holiday period. Rapid FM returned to air on 21st December on a new channel of 105.1MHz. However the audio quality was extremely poor, it being distorted most of the time. This carried on until 28th December, when the station disappeared. It was back on 1st January at 3pm, off again on 2nd, and returned on 4th with better audio. The strength is said to be better than when they were on 98.1MHz. By Thursday night, the station had gone off again. Peoples FM (104.7) were on continuously until 30th December, but can not currently be heard. MCR/ABC (90.3) were noted on all days except 26th, 28th December and 2nd and 3rd January. This station has the best audio quality of any of the Leeds operations. Just out of the area Thunder Radio operated last Sunday night (1st) and are now back on their original channel of 104.7MHz.

To the east, Radio Takoradi (105.0) failed to appear over Christmas, and have now not been heard for some time. W.L.N.G. (104.95) were noted on 20th and 27th December, and 3d January, so it appears as though they may have re-commenced Tuesday evening broadcasts.

Further south there were plenty of stations operating. Radio Britannia (98.2) was active on Christmas Day and Boxing Day, as well as 30th December. It's now back to the regular Friday evening schedule, and shows are expected for 6th January at 19:00. Z-FM (102.3) were noted on 23rd and 24th December. On the 23rd, they were playing the same 90 minute show for 12 hours! Crazy FM (106.0) went Crazy(!) over the holiday and were operating on 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 30th and 31st December. Vulcan FM appeared on 106.35MHz on 23rd December. They were also logged on 29th December on 105.85, but on 3rd January moved further down to 105.65MHz. The Chrsitmas broadcast from Rebel Radio (105.3/4) went ahead as planned on 22nd December. Other transmission from Rebel appeared on 27th December and 2nd January. On 2nd, they were apparently announcing 12.1MHz, but this was not noted. Village Radio now seemed to have settled on 104.85, and were noted on this channel on 25th and 26th December, as well as 1st and 2nd January. The station may now change its regular Monday evening broadcast to a Tuesday evening. Finally, Dearne Valley Radio (104.9) were just heard on Christmas Day.

In Derby, Radio Freedom were noted with test transmissions on Saturday 24th December on both AM (1242kHz) and FM (105MHz). Programmes began at 10:00 on Christmas Day, following a relay of Radio Nova Satellite. The station carried on until 27th December, but a lot of the time simply relayed Nova. There was nothing noted from them over the New Year. Finally, North Midlands Radio (105.5) hit the airwaves on 23rd December from 19:45 until 21:30.

London. Due to happenings earlier in the week which needed to be included in the Xmas/New Year Survey, it was not completed in time, and so will be in next week's issue. These happenings include the closure of many stations prior to

New Years Day, and a purge by the DTI on those which failed to do so. On Thursday (5th) only the following could be heard in NE London.... Euro-Jam (89.5)... Rock-to-Rock (90.2)... Supreme (90.4)... Sky (91.7)... Star (93.1)... Hits (98.4)... Time (102.2)... SLR (102.7) and GCR (104.4). By that evening both Rock-to-Rock and Supreme had disappeared.

**Essex.** Two stations have been monitored from this area recently - Hot Wire FM on 105.3 and Inner City Radio on 105.6MHz. In fact, during lift conditions Inner City was received between 29th December and 3rd January, in the Yorkshire area. Whilst listening, our reporter heard four presenters, Justin Webb, Mack Dee, Neil Matthews and Tracy Jones. An address was read out of I.C.R., c/o 25 Talefill Street, Chelmsford, Essex.

**Staffordshire.** Centre Sound (97.7) were noted on the air on both Boxing Day and 2nd January with the usual presenters. On Monday (2nd), they left the air rather abruptly during the Steve Ross show, only 45 minutes into the broadcast. Another station Radio Veronica was noted on 1st January on 105.1MHz, with just one presenter being heard, Ian Glover. Veronica was heard again the following day, and that night Steve Ross of Centre Sound made a surprise appearance to explain the reason why they left the air. Apparently they had some unwanted visitors and had to dismantle the studio in a hurry. He said that they would not be heard again until a new studio location was found. Radio Veronica were also on the air on Tuesday night (3rd).

**OFF-SHORE STATIONS : Radio Caroline.** We left the station the week prior to Christmas, and on the Wednesday (21st December) the first announcements came of a 24 hour sponsored 'fast' by the crew, in order to raise money for the victims of the Clapham Rail Disaster. Starvation day was Friday 23rd December, starting at 00:00 and ending at 24:00. Regular bulletins were kept up throughout the day on the progress of the staff and crew. The address of the fund was given out regularly. The ship's captain was said to be in control, and was watching over them all. It was a fun event, with Nigel Harris trying to put his hand on a loaf, only to be caught by Steve Conway. There were many other funny occurrences. After midnight, the fridge was raided! The day was marred by the station going off the air between 18:30 and 21:26. Line-up for that Friday was... 04:00 Kevin Nelson... 05:00 Nigel Harris... 09:00 Neil Gates... 13:00 Dave Asher... 16:00 Steve Richards (until 18:30)... 21:26 Tony Kirk (after tx came back on air)... 22:00 Kevin Nelson. The station carried on through the night, with Mike Watts hosting between 01:00 and 05:00. Christmas Eve (24th) saw the festive programmes beginning, with hundreds of Christmas and New Year cards being read out over the following few days. Many musical cards were played over the air, and it was mentioned that cards were stuck all over the ship. The deejays thanked everybody for their response. Erwin van der Blieck hosted a two hour show between 15:00 and 17:00 on the 24th, although as in recent programmes, the weather forecast has been read by someone else. Christmas Day (25th) saw a live link-up with the Radio 819 studio. Many greetings were exchanged in both Dutch and English to recent staff on shore leave, and also to former colleagues on the station. Nigel Harris and Steve Conway had some amusing banta about special messages which Steve kept giving to a girl called Angie in Kent. On saying that she might be more interested in himself, Steve replied by suggesting that she wouldn't be interested in his age group, and that maybe her brother would be more interested, probably remembering him from his Mi Amigo days. All programmes on 25th, had visits from other members of staff, which made good listening. A mystery guest was supposed to appear during Steve Conway's show at lunchtime on Christmas Day. However Steve said that problems had prevented this. In fact it was during the Kevin Nelson show at 18:50, that the suspense was finally broken. At this time, as tape of Mark Matthews was played which wished everyone all the best. The full line-up for Christmas Day was... 23:00 (24th) Steve Richards... 02:00 Mike Watts... 05:00 Neil Gates... 08:00 Nigel Harris... 11:00 Steve Conway... 14:00 Dave Asher... 17:00 Kevin Nelson... 19:00 Steve Conway... 21:00 Mike Watts... 23:00 Dave Asher. The night show from Steve Richards was his last for this time around, and he left the vessel on Chrsitmas Day. Also leaving at the same time was Tony Kirk. His last show was 20:00-23:00 on 24th December. The night of 25th/26th saw the station relayed on 819kHz, as well as some other strange happenings. At 02:00 (Monday 26th), Tim Allen was heard (presumably a

tape), followed by a recording of Bruno Brooks playing the Top 40. Dave Asher returned at 03:00 saying that he didn't know what was going on, and carried on his programme until 05:00. The schedule was altered around a little during the week, as when Steve Richards and Tony Kirk came off, they were not replaced. For 28th / 29th / 30th, it read... 04:00 Neil Gates... 08:00 Steve Conway... 12:00 Nigel Harris... 16:00 Dave Asher... 20:00 Kevin Nelson... 00:05 Closedown. On New Years Eve (Saturday 31st), Erwin hosted another show between 00:00 and 02:00. At 10:00, the promised Judy Murphy show 'The Ones That Got Away' was aired. This was started a couple of minutes early, and also the time-checks were all one hour out. This was completed at 11:58, when Steve Conway (with Nigel Harris and Neil Gates also in the studio) gave a tribute and farewell to Judy, saying she would be greatly missed and was a wonderful person. It was said that she had now gone to a station well known for its night-time broadcasts. (We believe she begins on Radio Luxembourg on 9th January). Thanks was also said to Chuck Cannon, who has also left for pastures new. It was then into the Top 60 singles of 1988, with Steve Conway. This started well after 12:00, and carried on until 16:30. Before the end of the chart, Steve thanked a long list of people, including James Day for erecting the aerials, Paul Shelton, Mike Watts, Peter Chicago, Ernie, Rob Harrison, Steve Masters, and finally he said not forgetting Peter Phillips, who brought some sort of professionalism to Radio Caroline once more. Number 1 was 'Domino Dancing' by The Pet Shop Boys. Steve Conway said that they chose it because it was used regularly in their announcements for 24 hour programming returning to Caroline. Following the Top 60, Nigel Harris hosted the 'Best L.P. Tracks' show. This went on until 17:50, and then continuous music continued until 18:00, when 'normal' service resumed with Dave Asher.

The New Year's Eve celebrations began at 22:47, when Steve Conway returned to the air, and everyone was in the studio, including a 'giggling girl!' This was presumed to be Francis Day, who was heard hosting a programme between 02:00 and 04:55 on New Years Day. 'Hosting' was not quite the correct word, as it was just continuous music, with Francis simply announcing the station on the hour. Kevin Nelson signed her off at 04:55. As the morning carried on, it was obvious that changes to the sound of the station were taking place. Since 1st January, news has been every hour on the hour, with headlines also introduced on the half hour during peak times. News is now read by the on-air deejay, again except during peak times, (Steve Conway on breakfast and Dave Asher on drivetime). A different news intro has also been introduced, and the outro has been dropped. Monday, 2nd January saw a surprise return to the air of Caroline Martin. Caroline was first heard at 21:00 that day, and now seems to have settled into that late evening slot. It is a couple of years since she was last on the air. A new voice was also heard the following morning at 04:00, that of Nick Jackson. Also returning, but on Tuesday was 'Powerdrive', between 16:00 and 20:00. Line-up for Tuesday 3rd January 1989 was... 04:00 Nick Jackson... 05:00 Nigel Harris... 09:00 Neil Gates... 13:00 Dave Asher... 16:00 Steve Conway with 'Powerdrive'... 20:00 Caroline Martin... 00:05 Closedown. In keeping with every January, the station had problems on Wednesday 4th, as all three frequencies left the air some time around 12:00. As far as we can tell nothing was heard for the rest of the day. However they were back on by Thursday morning, only to announce at 07:45 that they were going off for 'essential maintainance', and hoped to be in the afternoon. Indeed, they were back by lunchtime. It is not known what the problem was, but with all three channels off, we suspect that as they went off in the daytime, the front mast could have been suspect, as it was known to be one of the weak points of the system, and also a little rusty.

All other services have been operating as usual. The increasing number of religious programmes on **World Mission Radio** is now quite noticeable, and almost every time we tune in, there is one on, not like several months ago, when it was continuous gospel music. This can only be good for the continuation of the stations on the ship. **Radio 819** is now audible in Blackpool during daylight hours, since the two Irish stations (Q-102 and Cavan Community Radio) have now closed down. However, we now find that the BBC has sprung up with a carrier on the channel, from the Hereford area. How this affects signal in the South East of England is not known.

**OFF-SHORE STATIONS** Following our report of the sad death of Jack Kotschack on December 9th 1988, in Cannes, France, Per Lindholm has kindly written the following piece about Jack and his station, Radio Nord... "Mr. Kotschack was born in Helsinki, Finland, and came to Sweden following World War II. Through his work as head of advertising at a film company in Stockholm, he met Americans Gordon McLendon and Bob Thompson. In early 1960 they started making plans for an offshore radio station off the Swedish east coast. In Hamburg they found a suitable ship, the Olga, (later to be used by Radio Caroline as the Mi Amigo), which was subsequently re-named Bon Jour. The ship was then equipped with a 10kW AM transmitter which was flown in from the USA in thousands of loose parts for re-assembly, and a tall mast was fitted on the front of the ship. To avoid trouble with German or Swedish authorities, all preparations were carried out in Copenhagen. On December 20th 1960, the Bon Jour was ready for a life as a floating radio station, and she set sail for Stockholm. But the new offshore station, Radio Nord, didn't get a successful start. After a heavy storm, the ship had to limp into port in Finland, just a few days after reaching her anchorage off Stockholm. It wasn't until March 8th 1961 that Radio Nord began its official programming on 602kHz. The station became enormously popular with millions of listeners. This was indeed a new type of radio for the Swedish listening audience.

Mr. Kotschack was the driving force behind Radio Nord - acting at times both as the ship's captain and the managing director of the station. But by this time, the Swedish authorities had started to react. Radio Nord was the most listened to station in the country - far more popular than the two national networks which carried almost no contemporary music. The politicians created a law which made it illegal to provide supplies for, and to work for an offshore radio station. In late May 1962, the Swedish Parliament passed the anti-pirate law. On June 30th 1962 Radio Nord closed down. The last record played on air was, appropriately, 'Hit the road, Jack!.'

#### SHORT-WAVE STATIONS

Many thanks to everyone who supplied us with loggings for the past two weeks. They were especially helpful this time, as we had our ears glued to the medium wave and FM bands as the 'alternative' Irish commercial radio network went into its final week.

#### Log for Saturday 24th December 1988.

6205kHz...RADIO FAX, at 09:11gmt.  
6215kHz...WORLD MISSION RADIO, at 09:13gmt.  
6233kHz...FREESOUND RADIO INT., at 11:34gmt.  
6290kHz...RADIO ORION, at 15:06gmt.  
6304kHz...UNID.(cont. music), at 15:07gmt.  
6310kHz...DX-20, at 15:20gmt. (QSO)  
6910kHz...RADIO DUBLIN INT., at 09:21gmt.

#### Log for Sunday 25th December 1988.

6205kHz...RADIO FAX, at 10:56gmt.  
6206kHz...RADIO ACTION, at 10:15gmt.  
6215kHz...WORLD MISSION RADIO, at 08:30gmt.  
6231kHz...W.L.R., at 11:02gmt.  
6233kHz...UNID., at 10:00gmt.  
6254kHz...KLA RADIO, at 11:33gmt.  
6265kHz...RADIO DJ, at 08:19gmt.  
6266kHz...ROCK RADIO INTERNATIONAL, at 12:00gmt.  
6266kHz...FREESOUND RADIO INT., at 12:31gmt.  
6280kHz...WESTSIDE RADIO INT., at 10:05gmt.  
6289kHz...RADIO ORION, at 08:17gmt.  
6289kHz...RADIO LIMIT INT., at 09:35gmt.  
6290kHz...RADIO TOWER, at 10:54gmt.  
6293kHz...RADIO GLORIA INT., at 13:04gmt.  
6300kHz...W.F.R.L., at 11:09gmt.  
6304kHz...UNID., at 09:56gmt.  
6305kHz...BRITAIN RADIO INT., at 13:10gmt.  
6310kHz...DX-20, at 15:19gmt. [QSO]  
6317kHz...WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO, at 08:22gmt.  
6582kHz...RADIO BATIDA, at 08:59gmt.  
6630kHz...DX-20, at 10:10gmt.  
6630kHz...X-RAY ONE, at 12:06gmt.  
6815kHz...RADIO EAST COAST COMMERCIAL, at 09:57gmt.

6910kHz...RADIO DUBLIN INT., at 08:27gmt.  
7375kHz...RADIO LUCE, at 08:26gmt.  
7440kHz...RADIO WAVES INT., at 08:25gmt.  
7440kHz...THE WORLD CHRISTIAN SERVICE, at 09:22gmt.  
7710kHz...KLA RADIO, at 11:37gmt.  
15043kHz...WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO, at 09:15gmt.

**Weekend Music Radio** were announcing 100 watts on 6317kHz, 100 watts on 15043kHz and 1 watt on 98MHz. Listening to some telephone calls put out live on the air, several listeners in Europe were able to hear the transmission on 15MHz quite well. Both shortwave outlets were in use throughout Christmas Day, but a fault developed on 15MHz, and this was not on the air on Boxing Day. Both WMR and **Radio East Coast Commercial** hosted phone-in programmes during the festive weekends, and these seemed very popular judging by the number of calls received.

#### Log for Monday 26th December 1988.

6205kHz...RADIO FAX, at 09:09gmt.  
6215kHz...WORLD MISSION RADIO, at 09:10gmt.  
6230kHz...UNID., at 10:37gmt.  
6231kHz...W.L.R., at 11:02gmt.  
6235kHz...SUD WEST RADIO, at 08:04gmt.  
6254kHz...KLA RADIO, at 11:03gmt.  
6273kHz...ROCK RADIO INT., at 10:36gmt.  
6280kHz...WESTSIDE RADIO INT., at 10:38gmt.  
6290kHz...4IFR, at 10:05gmt.  
6290kHz...RADIO ORION, at 10:54gmt.  
6301kHz...W.F.R.L., at 10:16gmt.  
6304kHz...BRITAIN RADIO INT., at 10:38gmt.  
6313kHz...WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO, at 08:37gmt.  
6315kHz...RADIO SANTANA, at 10:40gmt.  
6317kHz...WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO, at 09:16gmt.  
6350kHz...RADIO MARABU, at 12:50gmt.  
6815kHz...RADIO ORION, at 09:54gmt.  
6815kHz...RADIO EAST COAST COMMERCIAL, at 11:29gmt.  
6815kHz...UK RADIO, at 12:45gmt.  
6910kHz...RADIO DUBLIN, at 09:55gmt.  
7315kHz...X.M.A.S., at 09:36gmt.  
7315kHz...W.E.I.R.D.O., at 11:16gmt.  
7440kHz...RADIO WAVES INT., at 10:45gmt.  
7710kHz...KLA RADIO, at 11:14gmt.

**Weekend Music Radio** continued with its marathon broadcast, on Boxing Day, on just 7317kHz. At 16:00, this 100 watt transmitter was moved to 15043kHz, and a spare 20 watt rig put on 6315kHz. Later on in the evening, it was moved back to 6317kHz, and the 20 watt transmitter put on 6312kHz, where they remained until 10:00 on 27th December. The station would be interested to hear from anyone who heard both transmitters on 48 metres (6312 and 6317), for a comparison in signal strengths. Address in 42 Arran Close, Cambridge CB1 4JH, England.

The address for X.M.A.S. was given as P.O. Box 11175, Amsterdam, Holland. No address for W.E.I.R.D.O. was noted, although Amsterdam was heard mentioned.

#### Log for Tuesday 27th December 1988.

6205kHz...RADIO FAX, at 08:42gmt.  
6215kHz...WORLD MISSION RADIO, at 08:40gmt.  
6270kHz...UNID.(Dutch), at 10:03gmt. [QSO]  
6280kHz...WESTSIDE RADIO INT., at 10:29gmt.  
6304kHz...RIVERSIDE RADIO INT., at 10:15gmt.  
6317kHz...WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO, at 08:41gmt.  
6875kHz...FALCON RADIO, at 09:09gmt.  
6910kHz...RADIO DUBLIN INT., at 08:44gmt.

#### Log for Wednesday 28th December 1988.

6205kHz...RADIO FAX, at 09:16gmt.  
6215kHz...WORLD MISSION RADIO, at 09:15gmt.  
6280kHz...WESTSIDE RADIO INT., at 10:55gmt.  
6910kHz...RADIO DUBLIN, at 09:24gmt.

**Westside Radio International** (6280kHz), **Radio Dublin** (6910kHz) and **Radio Fax** (6205kHz), were all on the air on Thursday and Friday. **Radio Fax** made their final broadcast on Friday 30th December on 6205kHz. The programme was repeated throughout the day, and then as normal in the evening it was switched to 1611kHz where it was heard for the final time into the early hours of Saturday morning, 31st.

Log for Saturday 31st December 1988.

6205kHz...BOYNESIDE R., at 09:05gmt.  
6215kHz...W.M.R., at 09:07.  
6231kHz...BOYNESIDE R., at 09:21gmt.  
6240kHz...UNID., at 11:40gmt.  
6245kHz...R. MI AMIGO, at 11:50gmt.  
6273kHz...UNID., at 12:20gmt.  
6280kHz...RADIO LIMIT, at 09:23gmt.  
6280kHz...WESTSIDE R., at 10:11gmt.  
6280kHz...R. PANDORA, at 10:22gmt.  
6290kHz...R. ORION, at 11:55gmt.  
6304kHz...RIVERSIDE R., at 10:35gmt.  
6304kHz...R. JOLLY ROGER, at 12:22gmt.  
6315kHz...UNID., at 13:20gmt.  
6910kHz...RADIO DUBLIN, at 09:19gmt.

More than the usual number of stations were on the air this morning, as several from Ireland came on to make what could be their final broadcasts. Radio Fax were not noted on shortwave this morning, but were transmitting on 1611kHz early on. In fact the transmitter on 6205kHz was 'borrowed' from Radio Fax for the day in order to allow listeners around Europe hear the final few hours of Boyneside Radio from Drogheda. For what could possibly be the first time, the shortwave relay were actually mentioned on the air. There was another direct relay on 6231kHz. Programmes from Boyneside closed at 15:00, following a two hour 'anorak' session by the station staff during which they reminisced about the last ten years on the air.

Westside Radio also made its final broadcast, and was on the air from early in the morning. In fact, Prince Terry had been on the air every morning between 25th and 31st December on 6280kHz with special broadcasts. He was heard to say that he would not know what to do every Sunday morning from now on, as Westside has become such a part of his life. A sad day for a dedicated man. The address for Westside Radio is believed to be being dropped, as the operator could possibly be prosecuted under one of the wide range of offences under the new Wireless Telegraphy Act. However letters to the old address will still be forwarded to Prince Terry. Elsewhere Riverside Radio International and Radio Mi Amigo both made what were presumably final broadcasts from the Irish Republic. Listeners should remember that future letters to P.O. Box 39, Waterford, should not bear the name of any radio station.

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Log for Sunday 1st January 1989.

6201kHz...THE VOICE OF THE LEEK, at 12:30gmt.  
6207kHz...B.M. BROADCASTING, at 13:55gmt.  
6207kHz...M.M.R., at 18:30gmt.  
6215kHz...RADIO CAROLINE, at 00:50gmt.  
6215kHz...WORLD MISSION RADIO, at 10:00gmt.  
6233kHz...FREESOUND RADIO INT., at 11:45gmt.  
6240kHz...BRITAIN RADIO INT., at 11:07gmt.  
6254kHz...KLA RADIO, at 10:37gmt.  
6266kHz...UNID.(closedown), at 16:18gmt.  
6273kHz...ROCK RADIO INT., at 09:50gmt.  
6277kHz...DX INTERNATIONAL (Test), at 17:08gmt.  
6280kHz...RADIO DJ, at 10:35gmt.  
6289kHz...RADIO ORION, at 12:21gmt.  
6304kHz...RADIO MARABU, at 11:48gmt.  
6304kHz...UNID.(Jolly Roger Radio?), at 14:20gmt.  
6313kHz...RADIO TITANIC, at 08:54gmt.  
6313kHz...WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO, at 12:01gmt.  
6318kHz...W.L.R., at 11:45gmt.  
6630kHz...DX INTERNATIONAL, at 09:46gmt.  
6815kHz...RADIO EAST COAST COMMERCIAL, at 11:00gmt.  
6875kHz...I.R.R.S. (?), at 08:59gmt.  
6875kHz...RADIO SUSAN, at 11:00gmt.  
6910kHz...RADIO DUBLIN, at 10:06gmt.  
7315kHz...CLASSIC TRACKS, at 11:05gmt.  
7375kHz...RADIO DJ, at 10:02gmt.  
7375kHz...RADIO WAVES INT., at 10:05gmt.  
7440kHz...RADIO WAVES INT., at 09:04gmt.  
7710kHz...KLA RADIO, at 10:49gmt.

# NOTICE

Rock Radio International  
SUNDAYS 10:00 - 15:00 GMT  
6273 kHz 49mB SHORTWAVE

NORTHERN IRELAND.

Rock Radio International will not be  
affected by the Irish Government's  
new Radio Legislation which comes  
into effect on February 1st 1989.

Northern Ireland's only free  
Radio Station will continue as  
usual.

All the best to those who  
will be affected by this new  
Radio Legislation.

Yours in FREE RADIO.

Rock Radio International.

Congratulations to Patrick Travers of Sheffield who was the winner of the competition held on Radio Susan / Falcon Radio during the month of December. His name was picked out of the hat at 11:00 on 1st January.

Classic Tracks was announced as a new station, and 'Herbie the Fish' was hosting the programmes. They were using the same address as X.M.A.S.

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Log for Monday 2nd January 1989.

6215kHz...WORLD MISSION RADIO, at 08:43gmt.  
6230kHz...JOLLY ROGER RADIO, at 10:20gmt.  
6237kHz...RADIO ORION, at 13:45gmt.  
6273kHz...RADIO PACMAN, at 10:15gmt.  
6277kHz...DX INTERNATIONAL, at 08:44gmt.  
6304kHz...JOLLY ROGER RADIO, at 11:04gmt.  
6910kHz...RADIO DUBLIN INT., at 08:47gmt.

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Additional logs for Sunday 18th December 1988.

6224kHz...F.R.S. HOLLAND, at 09:22gmt.  
6233kHz...RADIO INTERNATIONAL, at 11:35gmt.  
6260kHz...KLA RADIO, at 10:56gmt.  
6270kHz...RADIO INTERNATIONAL, at 12:45gmt. [QSO]  
6274kHz...RADIO PACMAN, at 12:44gmt. [QSO]  
6275kHz...ABC RADIO (Eastbourne), at 12:45gmt.  
6298kHz...RADIO CASSANDRA, at 12:25gmt. [QSO]  
6301kHz...RADIO DX20, at 13:15gmt. [QSO]  
6304kHz...JOLLY ROGER RADIO, at 10:20gmt.  
7316kHz...I.R.R.S. (?), at 08:55gmt.  
7316kHz...FALCON RADIO, at 10:48gmt.  
7374kHz...RADIO LUCE, at 08:26gmt.  
7374kHz...RADIO WAVES INT., at 12:10gmt.  
7440kHz...RADIO WAVES INT., at 08:47gmt.  
7440kHz...RADIO LIMIT INT., at 10:48gmt.

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In ending this first edition for 1989, may we thank everyone who has sent information to us over the past two weeks. As already mentioned, due to the Irish situation, we had very little time during the final week of 1988 to monitor other happenings on the bands, so all items received were invaluable to us. Many thanks.

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# The WEEKLY REPORT

## ANORAKS

### The First with the News in Print

No. 244....14th January 1989.

P.O. Box 539, BLACKPOOL FY1 4RE, England.

**COST:** The price of this weekly news-sheet (and cuttings) posted, is as follows... U.K. - First Class, 40p... U.K. - Second Class, 35p... E.E.C. (inc. Eire), 40p... European (non - E.E.C., but posted at full rate), 45p... Rest of the world (Air Mail), 55p. You may subscribe for as many weeks as you wish at the above appropriate rate.

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**INFO - LINE:** Ring Bradford (0274) 480590 for the most up to date news. A three minute message is available from 19:00 until 07:00 only, for the time being.

**NEW MERCHANDISE.** To begin with, a correction to the New Year Sale List. The 'Caroline 558 Jingles and Commercials' single, should have read 'Radio 558 Jingles and Commercials'. Only one new item this week, which covers the closing of the Irish radio stations in December 1988. Due to the large number of newspaper cuttings received here, we have a package on offer, containing 15 x B4 sheets, and also two C-90 cassettes featuring a selection of closedowns from around the country. As many Irish listeners will no doubt be wanting to make obtainable to other enthusiasts, full final hours etc. (which we do not have in some cases) of their own local stations, (i.e see advert overleaf for Rodney Neill in Craigavon), we decided to do an air-checked (mainly just voice links) version to a give an overall look at the various different closedowns. Closures on the tapes include stations in Donegal, Monaghan, Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Louth. Quality varies, as some are taken from MW, whilst others are from FM. Cost for this package is £5.00.

**NEW ARRIVALS.** Just four items this week, including the weekly **Now Radio** (No.90 / 16 pages) featuring radio news from around the spectrum, which is obtainable from P.O. Box 45, Kettering, Northants. NN16 0NW.... Issue 41 of shortwave free radio enthusiasts **Radiotex** is a bumper 8 pager covering the logs and news over the festive period on these bands. Address for more details is c/o Duempter Strasse 6, D-4100 Duisberg 12, West Germany.... Also dedicated to shortwave free radio is **Activity Magazine**. The Decemebr issue is now out, and has 20 pages including a review of 1988, station news, a feature on 'The Voice of Britain' a propagation section. For a sample copy send £1 to Activity Magazine, 3 Greenway, Harold Park, Romford, Essex RM3 0HH.... All types od DX information is written about in **Contact**, the bulletin of the World DX Club. In its 38 x A4 pages are members letters, loggings, QSL reports, recent station schedules and many other useful items for the DX-er. To join the club contact Arthur Ward, 17 Motspur Drive, Northampton.

**TAPE OFFER.** Just one this week, which we think will be of interest to both Irish and English readers. Tape 232 features **Radio Caroline** with its New Year's Eve broadcast between 11:20pm and 11:50am. Steve Conway (ex-Bray Local Broadcasting) is your host, and Kevin Nelson (ex-Hits 954 in Limerick) pops in to give tributes to the Irish free radio stations which were going off that evening. All this amongst the general revelling of bringing in the new year makes this a good one for the collection. The recording was made in Ipswich. Cost for this 90 minute cassette is just £2.00 including postage and packing.

**FOR SALE.** Due to a house clearout, a large number of items relating to both off-shore and free radio in general,

mainly from the 1970's, is available from Peter Spooner. Send for a list, he is open to offers. Peter Spooner, 125 The Greenway, Hurst Green, Oxted, Surrey RH8 0JY.

**RADIO STATION NEWS : IRELAND.** After almost two weeks of 'illegality', the authorities have still not taken any positive action against **Radio Dublin**, and a full schedule of programmes is now apparent every day. This indicates a weakness on behalf of the government in its own laws - perhaps they have realised what a big blunder they have made not issuing temporary licences. **Radio Dublin** re-introduced its FM outlet on 101.2MHz late last week, and this has been received, at times, here in Blackpool. On a short station news broadcast on Sunday (8th), Eamon said that they were operating in the middle of the FM band for convenience, and should Sunshine 101 return (which he doubted), Radio Dublin would move back to 105MHz. Medium Wave (1188) and shortwave (6910) continue also, with the latter now picking up many listeners and supporters overseas - it being the 'Voice of Ireland' on shortwave. Also in his news, Eamon said that because they were now catering for a larger and more varied audience, they were willing to change their format slightly to suit the new tastes, and listeners should telephone the station to tell the staff what they personally would like to hear the station sound like. **Radio Dublin** has now been served with notices by the ESB and Telecom Eireann stating that they will be cut off unless good reasons are given within 14 days. Apparently this will happen on 19th January. The constitutionality case in the High Court being brought by Eamon against the government has no set date, and could be held at anytime between March and May.

**Co. Donegal** **Radio North** continued to operate throughout last weekend and all this week on 846kHz as well as locally on FM. Their AM signal is very strong and can be heard Europe-wide during the night. The lack of country music on Irish radio since the closure of the 'pirates' last week has also meant that **Radio North** has listeners out of its normal service area. A request from a listener in Carlow was heard during one evening this week. With no similar format on RTE Radio, there are just **Radio Star** (Monaghan) and **Radio North** as outlets for country music. **Radio North** have a promotion for raising money in order to pay for the High Court case against the Irish government radio legislation. According to the promo, £30,000 is required for this, and **Radio North** is supplying £10,000 itself, with them hoping that the rest be raised by the listeners. Any donations (not cash) should be made out and sent to **Radio North**, P.O. Box 846, Ballymoney, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland. All three stations still on the air are using their existing telephone numbers.

**Co. Monaghan** **Radio Star Country** continue to operate each day on 891kHz. The station has been issued with notices that their electricity and telephone lines will be cut off within 14 days unless they can give a good reason why they should be left connected. A meeting between all the stations in the area took place at the Westenra Hotel on Monday (9th) to discuss the situation, and whether it was worth going back on the air. In fact, the FM transmitter of **KISS FM** had been on the air with tones and blank carrier since the previous Friday. The frequency is being altered slightly due to a new BBC relay station on this channel about to come into operation. As a result, the frequency will be moved up slightly, and at time of writing is on 103.8MHz. There are no plans for AM operations to re-commence.

**Co. Waterford** A long time listener to 'free radio' in the area gives his recollections of the closedowns of the stations in Waterford City. ABC 'The Hot FM' closed down on December 29th, at 3pm. Up to the close, was a day to day

FOR SALE

Tapes of the final hours of broadcasting of the following Irish 'pirate' radio stations :-

KISS FM  
ZEE 103  
K.I.T.S. Radio  
Boyneside Radio North  
Big 'M' Community Radio  
Rainbow Radio  
Radio North  
Super Q-102 FM

All the above are excellent Hi-Fi recordings.

For more details, contact :-

**RODNEY NEILL**  
54 ABERCORN PARK  
PORTADOWN, CRAIGAVON  
Co. ARMAGH BT63 5JW

count-down to the final 24 hours, then it was done in hours and finally, minutes. Special programmes were produced all over the Christmas period, featuring Richard Staines (ex-Voice of Peace, Caroline etc.) and Clive Derek (ex-Voice of Peace) and director of ABC Radio. On Christmas Day, all the deejays took their turn on the air, and during an afternoon show with Neil Butler & Richard Staines, Goss, of Bros, who was staying in Waterford's Castle Hotel, phoned up to say how he was enjoying the shows all day. One of the DJ's thought it was a wind-up, but the singing star phoned the station again, and this time they got it taped. Programmes were of top quality over the festive season - as always. The Bros item also hit the daily papers.

On 29th December, Neil Butler did the 'Night Flight' show, a show which was dropped early in the year. Dara Corcoran (who starts work on the IBA station Marcher Sound on 6th March) did the usual breakfast show, then Kevin McCarthy hosted the final few hours, with all the deejays saying their farewells. Dave Hunt did a very interesting piece on ABC, which took almost one hour. He started outside the ABC building (aptly named ABC Towers!), and gave a detailed tour through each department of the station. All the staff were interviewed and told of their jobs, with the advertising, newsroom (where news is compiled from several satellite outlets), main studio, production room, reception etc. Even to one who is very familiar with ABC 'Towers', this was excellently carried out by Dave. The last DJ to speak on ABC was also the first voice to be heard on ABC Radio, almost 7 years ago, Andy Ellis.

Prior to the closedown, the ABC lads had compiled two songs about the station's deejays and the closedown. Also, on the hour, was a montage featuring former presenters and familiar voices as well as giant competition winners and old jingles etc., being played. There were four different montages, and they included real 'anoraky' bits. At 3pm, the big switch was pulled, seconds after the last word from Andy Ellis, there was the dreadful sound of dead air. Some minutes later, the carrier appeared, but only with a mono signal, and this remained until late on 30th.

**WLR -Waterford Local Radio** ceased transmissions on December 30th, at 6pm. Programmes were as usual all day, nothing special put on (like ABC radio). For the last few hours, Rick Whelan hosted the show (WLR was founded almost 10 years ago by Des and Rick Whelan and a few friends). All the deejays said their last farewell, and some regular advertisers were interviewed on-air during the last few hours. Adverts were played during the last hour, and even telephone numbers were read out as advertisers came on air to wish them well. Geoff Harris, who does the morning

show did not even say goodbye, he said we will be back soon. This has been the feeling at WLR now for some time, they seem too sure of getting a license. During a prepared speech, station owner Des Whelan said an independent survey was carried out and gave WLR as the most listened station in Waterford City. No mention of this was mentioned up until the last few minutes of WLR, and this has now sparked off a bit of controversy in the local press. When WLR finished broadcasting at 6pm, all motorists were asked to sound their hooters and the public make some noise. It did not sound like a 'real' closedown on WLR, it seemed that the station management expected to be back on the air shortly. On listening to the closedown again (on tape), many of the deejays sounded unhappy about the future of broadcasting.

**NCR (Waterford City)** closed down on St. Stevens Day (Boxing Day). Programmes ran through Xmas Day and night with the usual presenters. During the night show, there was not one single Christmassy song played - perhaps the shows were recorded? This station played mostly oldies and irish songs, and classed itself as Waterford's only easy listening station. DJ's said 'Waterford's only easy listening station - beware of imitations'. This station started broadcasting some years ago in South Kilkenny under Suirside Radio. It later became Crystal City Sound, and lastly NCR, which stood for the owner's names, Nolan Cahil Radio.

**Co. Limerick / Co. Clare.** **Radio Luimni** was the first station to closedown, on 24th December at 01:30. It was closed by Alfie, who also opened it many years ago. John The Man finished his show at 11:00 on 23rd. All the other stations went through Christmas, apparently as there was a demand for advertising the Christmas sales. The closedowns began in earnest at 19:00 on 30th December, with the closure at 19:00 of **Power 98 - The Sound Channel**. Steve Phillips did the final show, and the station closed following a statement from operations manager Darren O'Brien. Others closing that day included **Galtee Regional Radio** and **W.C.R. (Ennis)** at midnight. On 31st December **Radio Vera** and **Radio Munster** went. Mike Hogan, for many years a voice on Radio Luimni closed **Radio Munster** at 18:00 and headed into the next room where **Radio Vera** was in the process of closing down. Following a station statement, the news, and goodbyes from the staff, the owners closed it at 18:15, and Limerick City was free from 'the menace of pirate radio', and thousands of people had nothing to listen to. Staying on until the end of 1988 were **W.C.R. - Abbeyfeale** and **Coast 103**. **W.C.R.** closed at midnight with goodbyes from a few staff, but **Coast 103** went out on a high note. The final 12 hours of broadcasting came from a pub, a very crowded pub by the end of the night. At about 00:05, the station closed down with much cheering from the pub.

Additions / corrections to last week's closedown report, as kindly supplied by Rodney in Craigavon, and Ian in Scotland. **Big "M" Radio** in Castleblayney closed at 23:00 on Friday 30th December, but left a 60 minute loop tape running through until the following evening. 864kHz was though to be off the air for this period. Also in this town, **Hometown Radio** (981kHz) could be monitored further afield on 31st December, due to Dublin's I.C.B.S. having closed the previous day. The deejays were heard presenting their final shows, leading up until closedown, though to be about 19:00. The final line-up for **KISS-FM** in Monaghan on 30th December was... 06:00 Nick Richards & Con McConville... 10:00 Owen Barry... 12:00 Dennis Murray... 14:00 Final programme with all staff, headed by Tom Hardy. As the 18:00 close approached, Tom read the lyrics of the song 'Ideal World' by the Christians, which he then played. At 18:00 he announced that **KISS FM** is now closing down, then a final jingle which cut off before the end. We wonder did they then have technical trouble as the microphone went live again several times, and we could hear car horns and the **KISS** staff shouting to the crowd. One nice comment Tom made on his last 10 to 2 show on 29th, after playing the Buggles, he announced 'Video killed the radio star, we'll put the balme on DTR!'

**Erneside Radio** in Belturbet, closed sometime between 18:30 and 20:00 on Saturday 31st.

**ZEE 103** in Omeath closed at 23:59 on Friday 30th, with Noel McStay doing the last show. **Rainbow Radio** in Carrickcarnon went at 15:10 on Saturday 31st, with 'Fiddlin' Tom Cameron being the final deejay. **Boyneside Radio North** closed at 15:58 on Saturday 31st, having extended for an extra hour due to the fact that they were inundated with requests.

## AN OPEN LETTER TO TOM HARDY - KISS FM (Monaghan).

Whatever happened to the skinhead with his finger on the streetpulse that we knew and loved?

I was interested to read ('Sunday Life' - 23.10.88) that you now describe yourself as 'an old hippy'.

Thank you, Tom. That will be 50p please.

With regards from another old hippy who remembers well when J.D. Souther's latest album was the thing, Andy Archer's chocolate gateau etc., etc.

Yours Sincerely.... Stevie Gordon - Lubeck, Germany

## LAND-BASED STATIONS.....LONDON.

### LONDON FESTIVE PERIOD SURVEY - 24 Dec - 10 Jan. 1989

This survey covers the three dramatic weeks of Christmas, New Year and the first weekend of January, when events turned from apprehension and paranoia of the pre - Christmas days to the hope of a brighter future as the New Year dawned.

The run up to Christmas was marked by a few desultory busts from the DoTI men, who, much to everyone's surprise, made very few forays into London Radio Land. An air of desperation and forced gaiety permeated the airwaves in the days leading up to 31st December, or 'Domesday' as some would have it. Stations took to opening the doors of the studios and inviting the listening public in to party. More and more stations joined the ever lengthening list of those intending to close on New Year's Eve. More and more appealed to the great listening public to come forward with letters of support, with the futile aim of drumming up enough public support to persuade the powers that be, that they are the one organisation who should be allowed to broadcast to their special community in London. But behind the scenes, more and more plans were made to return under heavy disguise in the near future, as they see the advertising revenues going to the few stations who remain on the air. This will be the moment of truth, as operators choose the most profitable course for them. They must now decide whether to steer the straight and narrow path to legality, or to turn their sails into the wind and remain on course as a Privateer. They must also decide to get back on air before someone else nicks the all important slot. In the end, the decision will hinge on which way makes more money - now.

It hasn't helped matters that there has been widespread misunderstanding on the relevance of December 31st. to the Privateer world, as rumour and counter rumour have swept through the radio community, much of it fostered by those who should know better. Much confusion has been caused to the radio industry, who have been lead to believe that the draconian measures being introduced in Eire, are also to be applied to the mainland. Whilst massive fines and even imprisonment are not known in England, not even the DoTI men want to hold the Electricity Boards responsible as is happening in Eire. The barring of people from owning or working for legit radio organisations, should they be convicted of an offence under the Wireless and Telegraphy Act, has only been heard as a condition of eligibility from Douglas Hurd, and may not stand up in a court of law in England, and would certainly not stand up in a European court. But while the official frighteners go on, no one seems to have sat down and thought through the implications to the Privateer industry. Before someone can be convicted they first have to be caught and prosecuted. With proper security, link transmitters and no 'gabby' D.J.'s (like the LWR jock who blithely announced the back room of the club they were using as a studio thus negating the two link transmitters) there is no reason why stations can't go on in the way that they have been doing for the last few years. With the exception of those who have put themselves up to be shot at, none of the owner / operators of any of the big 7 / 24 stations have been convicted of anything more serious than a parking ticket. The pressures to get back on air may soon prove to be irresistible to the stations, as clubs, record companies and disc jockeys (not to mention record shops, pager companies and yuppie phone renters) start to feel the financial draught.

The quietness of the London streets on Christmas Day was echoed just over a week later on the FM band, as pirates deserted their Privateer ventures in droves. The following are definitely known to have closed pending successful applications for licences. LONDON GREEK RADIO, GREEK RADIO FOR LONDON, LONDON ARAB, SUNRISE, RJR, PASSION, LONDON WIDE RADIO, CRYSTAL, SOLAR 93, KISS-FM, WNK, FRESH, JBC, TROPICAL and TIME. How

many, if any, will return and under what guise, remains to be seen. By Tuesday 3rd January, apart from robot popsters, HITS-FM (98.40), there was no 7 day, 24 hour London Wide Privateers. The only stations heard on that day were Deptford's ROCK TO ROCK (90.20), Peckham's SKY RADIO (91.70 st.), West London's STAR (93.10 but missing by the evening) and THE SOUND OF THE BIG APPLE (SOBA 102.50), Harlesden's PEOPLE'S (103.70), GREEK COMMUNITY RADIO (104.45 - they too were missing by the evening) and a low powered Asian, thought to be SINA RADIO INT. (90.85) out of Southall. These stations were joined later by the return of Top Forty tapers HITS-FM (98.4) who had unaccountably missed the entire New Year's weekend. HITS were heard Tuesday and Wednesday (3rd and 4th January) but have not been heard since. By Monday 10th January, some station's nerve had cracked and both SUNRISE and PASSION had returned. More may be expected to return.

The majority of studios are still unknown to the 'Boys from the London Lubianka', whereas virtually every TX site in London has regular visits from them. There are also several weekenders who set up afresh each time, in order to maintain security. Whilst there were forty to fifty outfits active at any one time, it represented an overload situation for the DoTI men, who seemed to be content to just take out transmitters, thus proving that there is safety in numbers. With less stations to contend with, it was thought that the soul destroyers would be out in force in an effort to track down the studios and wipe out the remaining broadcasters in a major crackdown. It now seems clear that a number of busts did take place in the first few days of the New Year. Amongst those believed to have been affected were SUPREME (90.50) back in the early hours of 5th January, CLASSIC C.R. (94.20), STAR (93.10 - back by Friday 5th Jan.), CITY RADIO (94.60), JOY RADIO (97.85 - back by Sat. 7th Jan.) and GCR (104.45). Several others who did not complete their original schedules included STARPOINT (93.25 - off Sunday 1st January), STUDIO (92.65 - off Monday afternoon) and STAGE (98.10 - off Monday afternoon). These may just have gone off through the fatigue of carrying on through the long holidays or possibly into hiding until it is clear what kind of action will come from the DoTI men. SUNRISE (89.70) had been expected to go off on Saturday 31st, as previously announced, but continued into Bank Holiday Monday. It is always possible that they didn't know what day it was, after the extended Christmas!

Amongst those known to have been taken out in the pre-Christmas sweep were PIONEER (105.40) who were not back until the New Year weekend, and LWR (92.05 st.) who were back within hours. LWR had already announced an intention to stay on the air until 31st December, no matter what the cost. New Year's Eve saw them in self-congratulatory style as Zak and Ron-Tom took pager messages and even live studio phone calls in the run up towards midnight.

TIME RADIO (102.15), despite announcing a close-down, lost a stereo TX just before the festivities started properly. They were back on air in double quick time, but only in mono. TIME appears to be unable to decide whether they are going off air or not. There has been no live programming since midnight on 31st, but they have been running a two hour loop tape of music, ads. and ID's for about twelve hours a day, from mid-day onwards. So far, the tape has been changed daily. This is, presumably, a holding operation to safeguard the slot should they decide to return to live broadcasting, or more likely, pending the arrival of the much vaunted merger between SOLAR RADIO and CDR, under the project title of 'Q 102'. Tests were actually heard for the first time on Saturday evening (7th Jan.) on 102. Actual programming, with a mix of daytime rock and night-time soul, had in fact, been due to start on New Year's Day, but delays had hit the project. The arrival of 'Q 102' will not only upset TIME RADIO, but is sure not to please the "Good Guys" at Sunday golden Groovers VERONICA 102 (101.90), as they are bound to be obliterated by the maxi-signal promised from the soul and rock vets. Leaning heavily on irony V-102 supremo Gary Stevens said, "What London really needs now, is another soul station" as he resignedly accepted the inevitable problems which will be caused to his increasingly popular Sunday station.

With LGR (88.45), and GRL (96.1) gone, this only leaves GCR (104.45) of the regular Greek stations on the air. There are still believed to be at least two other occasional Greek stations around, usually coming up at the weekends. LONDON

**ARAB** (89.7) has gone, and with it the Italian service it had been putting out on some afternoons. With Brixton's **PASSION R** (90.7) now off, **SRI** (90.85) seems to be getting out again, at least in the early hours of the morning, when R3 is off. The big news is the return of **ASIAN COMMUNITY RADIO** (103.35) of **ASIAN FM**, as they sometimes call themselves. ACR have transmuted out of the Asian service which Fresh FM put out between 4am and 8am each morning, in Punjabi, with a Hindi accent. They are now putting out at least 18 hours a day, and appealing for behind the scenes helpers. So, the 250 watt tx's of **FRESH FM** (103.35) will not be going to waste after all. The ACR service means that Fresh want to be seen to be distancing themselves from their past. They also made a point of paying their taxes, although the paying of VAT, NHI and other taxes probably doesn't concern the DTI a wit when they bust a station. It is also possible that, like Time Radio just down the road, they want to keep all options open, and are letting ACR use the facilities so that the slot remains accessible to them - or is that being too cynical? It is also interesting to note that while near neighbours JBC have been off the air, the slot hasn't been entirely quiet, as occasional bursts of a stereo test tape have been heard at odd times.

The most consistant performers over the festive period have been Deptford's **ROCK-TO-ROCK** (90.2), Peckham's **SKY R** (91.7-stereo), **Star R** (93.1), **SoBA** (102.5), Harlesden's **PEOPLES FM** (103.7) and **GREEK COMMUNITY RADIO**. R-T-R had a moving experience on Boxing Day when one unwitting presenter, who was taking live calls for the dedication line, found himself at the end of a list of 67 names being read out by one avid listener, in a slow precise voice. Almost without pause, she handed over to her sister who followed on with another 24 names on a phone line that was rapidly deteriorating. The bewildered presenter congratulated his listener for remembering all the names, only to be told that it had all been written down before hand. Down the road apiece from R-T-R, Peckham's **SKY RADIO** have re-located their transmitter into a better position, and to celebrate the New year have been in stereo since 1st January. They now have a massive signal which is going a surprising distance, especially after R3 have finished for the day. An increase in the reception pattern was also noted for **STAR R**, indicating better engineering or higher power, but it looks as though they were got at by the Gremlins on Jan 3rd. **PEOPLES R** are hampered from wider reception by being on exactly the same slot as BBC R Northants., which swamps them outside of theor immediate NW London area. People's, like JBC, Time R and Fresh FM opened the doors of the offices, studios for listeners and staff alike to take drinks with the management. The party atmosphere soon spread to the output of all those outfits. The **SOUND of the BIG APPLE** made it back in time for Christmas, and were totally non-stop over the holidays. It looks as though they will soon be a force to be reckoned with as they tighten up the sound, which seems to be more soul orientated than some.

New out of Greenwich is **MERIDIAN** (90.05) a soul weekender which was prominent over the Christmas weekend, but was not noted at New year. Also heard about from that area, but not actually monitored, are **Magnum Radio** and **Broadway FM**, both low powered soul weekenders.

Most, if not all weekenders put on some kind of special effort over the holiday period. Most notable of these was **STARPOINT** (93.25), who despite still being in mono, came on air a week before Christmas, and remained until sometime on New Year's Day. It is not known whether they left the air voluntarily or not. They have the most recognisable of styles, and didn't contain themselves just to music. A number of soundtracks from the Stingray series were aired. Sampling from Stingray isn't new, but playing a whole video soundtrack is. A fine mix of music topped it off. **KISS-FM** (94.00-stereo) had announced earlier, their intention of attempting to stay on air up until the New Year closedown. The attempts remained somewhat patchy, and it appeared that they had moved back south of the river by closedown time. Also announcing a more or less continuous service for the holidays, were E London rockers **ROCK-FM** (94.3), whose enthusiasm could be heard with preliminary tests at about 3am on Christmas morning. They did seem to get on most days, and were certainly running tapes late into the night. They were on live into the early hours of Bank Holiday Tuesday, when we were treated to live phone calls with the scathing wit of Christopher England, as his acerbic

comments took apart a hapless Anorak who happened to ring in. R-FM, who have occasionally been in stereo, were testing in stereo in the early hours of Sunday morning. All was going well, when just after 11am all went silent. The 'Magnificent Seven' hurried round to the tx site to find the tangled wires that is the mark of 'The Phantom Tx Nicker of Old London Town'. The enraged rockers determined not to be beaten, returned with a replacement tx to get back on air, only to find that tech problems caused them to leave the air early.

A pleasant surprise on New Year's Eve was to find both sides of an ancient copy of Pink Floyd's 'Wish You Were Here' album, coming up on 98.10. It didn't connect until re-tuning to that slot the next day, that this was a test for Pink Floyd loving **LONDON ROCK**, who haven't been heard since mid-August, and made a welcome return for most of the day, for what was dryly referred to as "the second annual broadcast". LR exceeded all expectations when they returned again for two full days on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th January, covering all the multi-facets of rock music. However, coming up on 98.1 caused them to clash strongly with E London weekenders **STAGE FM** (98.1), a battle that nobody won. The arbiters of good taste in music, and grubby records have been guilty of this before, when they clashed with **SUNRISE** (88.7) in the same way, back in the Spring and Summer. Also making an un-announced but welcome return to the airwaves were erstwhile pop-rockers **DIRECT LINE RADIO** (105.5) who tested on Friday 23rd December, and were then on more or less continuously over the next four days. The hoped for stereo output didn't materialise as the stereo encoder proved to be unreliable at the last moment. A number of familiar voices were heard, and it appears as though DLR is only in limbo, with the organisation and equipment still in place, and further outings can be expected in the future. **RADIO FREE LONDON** (92.0) took advantage of the quiet space kindly left by the departing LWR, and came up Saturday with live tests, with a good quality clear signal. Tending more towards the Caroline Top 500, they are intending that this test should be the vanguard of the return to weekend rock radio.

Take the word 'Raiders - throw a few letters - add a few more, and what do you get? **MAGIC RADIO** (105.0 -weekends) the new vehicle in the troubled career of erstwhile station owner Pete Summers. Hard to talk to, Beatle lovin' Pete, previewed his new weekend outfit in the early hours of Sunday morning with a test tape of all his old favourites. He has gathered around him, many of the familiar faces who made Raiders erratic output so popular. Still with him is full time looney Howard, whose committal is expected daily. Billed as 'Your classic tracks on FM, not AM' - an obvious knock at the ILR procedure of putting the Gold service on am - Magic intend to mix rock and current Top Forty into the format for good measure. Magic are putting out a blockbuster signal from a new site, which reaches not just across London, but many of the high spots outside town as well. Hopefully, this time, things will run more smoothly, for, what, on paper looks like the continuation of a winning formula. Consistency hasn't always been their ace card, but that hasn't always been their fault either.

Golden Groovers were not left out of the Christmas schedules, as **VERONICA 102** had a full day on Christmad Tuesday on the low power tx. The 'Big Rig' has not yet made a full debut, after a disappointing breakdown on its first full blown trial on Dec. 18th. Supremo Gary Stevens has been slowly gathering round him, the team that made 'Oldies' Hits-FM so popular. The line-up now contains such luminaries as Steve 'Red Light' Roberts, Tony James, and just joined is ex-Hits Numero Uno, Mike Andrews. The latest additions will mean that longer broadcast times are being brought in much earlier than originally anticipated, and 2pm starts should be beginning on Jan 8th. Much hard work on the engineering side means that very shortly, Veronica should be blossoming out into full blown stereo, which will be a welcome addition. Even Capital Gold is only in rotten old lo-fi am mono. London listeners will have noticed the inclusion of ads, one of which is for Weekly Report. Sunday Jan 8th marked a change of location for V-102, as a security measure, as the normal site had signs of interference. The new site brought in, improved reception in many areas, and will probably be kept as the main tx site.

\*\*\*\*\* Due to lack of space, the final section of this mammoth three week London survey from Sid will be featured in the next edition of Weekly Report (No. 245). \*\*\*\*\*

## LAND-BASED STATIONS : U.K.

**Essex.** **Inner City Radio** (105.6) were active over the Christmas and New year period with 24 hour operation at times (as mentioned last week, they were received in Yorkshire during lift conditions). The usual soul music is the format here, with the station regularly holding events in local nightclubs. Over the weekend January 7/8th, the station operated on Saturday evening, and all day Sunday, but had gone when checked at 10pm that evening.

**Old timer Radio Lola** have resumed broadcasting on 105.3MHz with their specialist music programmes. DJ 'Pierre le Grande' kicks off Lola on Sunday mornings at 9am. Other jocks on the station include Mike Benny (rock) and teasy Weasy (50's and 60's rock n'roll). They were noted on 8th January.

**Radio Galaxy** were active on Boxing Day and 27th December on 90.8MHz, in stereo, with good rock/pop music programmes. The station, which was very active in the summer, has recently had an increase in power and can be heard over a wide area of mid-Essex. Regular deejays to look out for are Paul Watt, John Barren, Dave the Cardboard Box and station personality Gary Lee with his impersonated Rainbow characters of Zippy, George and Bungle. The station also operates occasionally mid-week, and have an address of 12 Kirkham Road, Beckton, London E6.

**Radio Hot Wire** are still in operation on 105.3MHz and can be received well throughout the south of the county. They had a setback last week, when one of the sites was raided, although only a small amount of equipment was lost.

**Stomp FM** made a few tests in recent weekends on 105.4MHz., but are not yet thought to have commenced a regular schedule once more.

**Newcastle-Upon-Tyne.** **STS** (94.6) made their usual broadcasts on both Saturday and Sunday (7th / 8th January). After being 'ad free' since their inception several months ago, commercials were noted for the first time last weekend. They were for a restaurant, a free local newspaper, and several clubs in the city. Unfortunately, the station must have just invested in a 'reverb' machine, so the voice-overs for ads utilised this to such an extent that it was difficult to make out what was actually being said on the adverts!

**Staffordshire.** **Radio Veronica** appeared on Sunday 8th January on 105.1MHz, but were far from their usual excellent standard, as the signal was weaker, and audio suffered from very bad distortion. The station left the air at 17:00, announcing that they would be back on the air at 17:30 after technical adjustments. They did return, up slightly on 105.2, but the distortion was much worse, and 15 minutes later they had gone again. The station was noted again on Tuesday 10th January, but on a new channel of 104.7MHz.

**Yorkshire, Humberside & Derbyshire.** Leeds was a very quiet place this week, with no activity being monitored at all. In fact, **Rapid FM** were the last to be noted, on Thursday 5th January. They disappeared at around 15:00 that day. Peoples FM has not been heard for a while, and MCR/ABC are reported to have possible closed down (perhaps thinking they may get a license?) Across in Bradford, both stations have operated as normal. **Radio Harmony** (105.3) announce broadcasts as 20 hours per day, and **Paradise City Radio** as 24 hours per day. Elsewhere in West Yorkshire, **Thunder Radio** (104.7) could be heard in Leeds as Peoples were not causing any problems on this frequency.

In South Yorkshire, **Radio Britannia** can be regularly heard each Friday evening between 19:00 and around 21:00, with programmes presented by Kenny Crescendo. He may be joined shortly by another well known voice. Sunday (8th) (and Monday 9th), saw **Village Radio** on the air on 104.85MHz, where they now seem to have settled. **Vulcan FM** (105.65) were also noted and an address was read out of : Craig, Cherry Cottage, 80 Whitwell Road, Southsea, Hampshire. Requests sent to this address could take until April to be aired. (Perhaps the mail is picked up personally?) On their regular Monday night slot this week, **Rebel Radio** (105.4MHz - 20:00-22:08) were announcing a new address of 13 New Road, Firbeck, Worksop, Nottinghamshire S81 8JY. The station was also on the air the following night (10th) for a couple of hours. A frequency of 102.1MHz has been heard mentioned, but nothing was monitored on this channel.

**Nottingham.** Following the recent raid, **Heatwave Community Radio** (105.1) came back on the air at 17:00, on Thursday 5th January. Regular guest presenter from London's Passion Radio, V.I.P. Commander B appeared shortly after the recommencing of programmes, at 18:00. He was also heard

the following night, just before he went to judge the well advertised 'Miss Lovely legs of Nottingham' contest. The 1st birthday party is now being advertised in earnest, and is on Friday 20th January at the Marcus Garvey Centre in Nottingham, price £3.50. As well as most of the H.C.R. crew, guests include from Radio P.C.R.L., Mr D.C., from London, south of the Thames (Passion Radio), V.I.P. Commander B and from north of the Thames (Time Radio) the Ragamuffin Don.

**Merseyside.** Medium wave listening was down to one station last weekend, **North Coast Radio** (1350), although they made up for everything but putting out a colossal signal all weekend, even overcoming the French station at night, here in Blackpool. Neither Merseywaves nor S.C.R. were monitored here, although we believe S.C.R. may have been on, but on low power. **Radio Merseywaves** (1242) were testing on Thursday (12th), and programmes are expected back on this weekend. On FM **Eastham Community Radio** (105.2-9th Jan) and **Concept Radio** (97.7-8th Jan) were heard locally, and a test from **Horizon** (102.2) was noted by us.

## OFF-SHORE STATIONS

**Radio Caroline.** The line-up for the remainder of the first week in January was as we left it in 'WR' 243. The station was only off the air between 07:45 and 09:30 on Thursday 5th January, despite it being stated that they would not be back until the afternoon. Friday (6th) went without a hitch, and the station proceeded with its regular 24 hour operation at the weekend. With the jocks being moved about somewhat for Saturday and Sunday, Dave Asher hosted in the early hours, whilst Caroline Martin was moved to the daylight hours (09:00-13:00 on Saturday, and 13:00-17:00 on Sunday) as was Nick Jackson (breakfast). Saturday 7th, also saw Nick Jackson sitting for an ill Steve Conway, on the last part of his show. The hours of transmission were altered on Monday to 05:00 until 01:00, meaning that the odd hour early in the morning has now been dropped. Line-up until the time of writing was 05:00 Nigel Harris... 09:00 Caroline Martin... 13:00 Neil Gates... 16:00 Dave Asher... 19:00 Nick Jackson... 23:00 Neil Gates... 01:00 Closedown. News is still on the hour, although 'off-peak' it is not always read by the on-air presenter. Certainly, during Caroline Martin's programmes, it is Steve Conway who reads it. Tuesday (10th) saw the start of a period of problems for all services. The station left the air during Caroline's programme at 11:31, and returned at 12:00 in time for the news with Steve Conway. The tx then cut out again, and returned at 12:38 with the 'Fortunes', but as this was finishing, they went off again. Neil Gates returned with a programme at 13:05, and all went well until 15:02 when it was announced that the station was going off for 10-15 minutes for adjustments. This was the case, and they were back at 15:20. There followed more problems, by being off at 16:00, back 16:19, off at 18:40, back at 20:14. The station was off-air again the following day. By Friday however, a nice consistent signal was audible here in Blackpool, at least during the daylight hours. It is not known what caused the faults, but all three services appeared to be off. However, it was noted on the Essex coast, that when 558 went off, Radio 819 went well down in strength, and the audio was very muffled. Since the records did not slow, the generators are not thought to have been the problem. The shortwave service of **World Mission Radio** have not been heard for some days now. Perhaps some work is being done on the front mast, which requires the SW aerial to be disconnected for a time? For those wishing to write with requests, letters etc. to the stations, the full address of both **Radio Caroline** and **Radio 819** is : Apartado 146, 17250 Playa de Aro, Spain.

Finally this week, Jenny Knight sent us a programme schedule for **Invicta Radio** for Boxing Day, which read like a 'Radio Caroline Kent'... 02:00 Ray Clark (under an alias a couple of years ago)... 06:00 Johnny Lewis... 19:00 Mark Matthews... 22:00 Peter Philips!!!

**THE COMMUNICATE '88 PACKAGE.** A souvenir of this event held in Blackpool is currently available. It contains two C-90 cassettes with edited highlights of the interviews held on stage with offshore, land-based and Irish personalities, an 8 page, A4 photo-book with pictures of the stars both on and off stage, and all the items which were produced especially for the event. (Commemorative rock, plastic bags badges, stickers etc.). Special reduced price for the package for those who attended the event is £5.00, and for those who didn't £8.00.

**FREE!** An A3 mini-poster featuring the Caroline Top 60

as played on New Years Eve. If you are interested in a copy, send a large s.a.e. to John Patrick, 155 Sanctuary Way, Grimsby, South Humberside DN37 9RX.

**WANTED.** Tapes of recent new presenters on Caroline 558. Send details to : Steve Ball, 2 Badger Grove, Meir Park, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs. ST3 7RY.

**Radio New York International** The following report was received from Radio East Coast Commercial recently, and may be of interest to those following the latest attempts at offshore broadcasting in the U.S..... "Our radio correspondent in the States telephoned a few days before Christmas to tell us that Al Weiner recently appeared before a U.S. Federal Judge in an attempt to get the 'restraining order' on the m.v. Sarah lifted. It seems that the Judge ruled that he considered the vessel to be American, and therefore it did come under the jurisdiction of the F.C.C. We understand that the vessel is still anchored off Long Island, and that it has a full crew aboard. Another interesting fact that has emerged is that the owners of the m.v. Sarah did not have any official written permission or documentation from Roy Bates allowing the vessel to fly the flag of the Principality of Sealand. Only a preliminary agreement had been reached with Michael Bates by telephone. It appears that the official confirmation document was prepared for signing by Roy Bates, but that this never actually happened. In any case.... when the owners of a ship wish to change the flag it sails under.... the owners must also obtain a cancelling order from the country under whose flag the vessel was originally sailing. Because of all these things, the U.S. judge was quite correct to rule that the m.v. Sarah was American, and the owners of the vessel are extremely lucky not to be in jail. It would appear that Radio New York International and the m.v. Sarah are no more, although we understand that this does not mean that it is the end of American offshore radio. The vessel is now under the control of a new radio broadcasting group who intend to re-register the ship under a name that has strong associations with Marconi". Many thanks to R.E.C.C. for supplying us with this information. When we hear more about the fate of RNI, we will let you read about it.

**The Voice of Peace.** The middle of December 1988, saw the station reduce its hours even further, as yet more presenters left. The line-up on Tuesday 13th December was... 06:00 Kenny Page... 09:00 Brendan Mee... 12:00 Kenny Page... 13:00 John MacDonald... 16:00 Kenny Page... 18:00 Brendan Mee... 21:00 John MacDonald... 01:00 Closedown. There was no phone-in during the week because of Abie being out of the country. On Wednesday (14th) a tender arrived with some birthday cards for John MacDonald who was 34 years old on that day. On the same tender, Brendan Mee left the station. At this point there were only two deejays left on board, Kenny Page and John MacDonald. The other members of the crew include Richard, Ratha, Dan, Haze, and Tony. The station are still looking for a cook. A new deejay (a girl!!) is going to arrive shortly, and another three (one from Scotland, one from Liverpool and another), will all hopefully arrive in January. The line-up on 14th December, and for the days following was... 06:00 Kenny Page... 09:00 John MacDonald... 12:00 Kenny Page... 13:00 John MacDonald... 16:00 Kenny Page... 18:00 John MacDonald... 19:30 Kenny Page... 21:00 John MacDonald 22:00 Closedown. Finally, the Hebrew chart has passed from Friday at 15:00, to Sunday from 17:00 till 18:00. Between 15th and 21st December, the V.O.P. was broadcasting 16 hours a day with just these two deejays, with even Abie missing from his phone-in due to being in Geneva. Abie returned on 18th and was doing his shows again on Monday 19th. Wednesday 21st, saw a tender bring an Israeli out called Armon, to help John and Kenny. The line-up thus became... 06:00 Kenny Page... 09:00 John MacDonald... 12:00 Armon... 13:00 John MacDonald... 15:00 Abie Nathan... 17:00 Kenny Page... 18:00 Armon... 19:30 Kenny Page... 21:00 Armon... 24:00 Closedown. On Friday 23rd, the tender came again, and brought two new presenters (as expected), Linda Maisson (has an Australian accent) and Mike. There was a return to 24 hour operation, and a steady line-up has now resumed of... 00:00 John MacDonald... 03:00 Mike... 06:00 Kenny Page... 09:00 Linda Maisson... 13:00 John MacDonald... 16:00 Kenny Page... 18:00 Armon... 19:30 John MacDonald... 22:00 Linda Maisson. On 25th December, there was no phone-in, and new recruit Mike was ill, with Kenny Page replacing him for the last 20 minutes of his

show. The station was only on FM from that morning, and according to Kenny, a bird hit the antenna. The AM transmissions returned later that week. Abie was on the air on 25th at 00:30 talking about the new year. His message was replayed several times during the day. At 15:40(!) he went on air again and talked about the problems on the ship during the storms. New Year's Eve was celebrated with Gad Bitton from 21:00 until 23:00. Then there was a special programme with 'Lady' Linda and John MacDonald with a special kiss at 24:00 following a countdown of the final seconds of 1988. The programme continued until 01:00 when Gad came back to finish his show (03:00). At 21:00 on 1st January the station went off the air. It returned on Tuesday morning with a new deejay Zoar Tal, who used to work in Radio City in Tel Aviv. He is on the station for just one month. Linda is also just staying until 21st January (or the next storm). Leaving during the first week of January was Mike the deejay, who was ill during the storm and was also homesick. Kenny Page went on shore leave at the same time. Abie was on the air again on 4th January between 15:10 and 15:50 telling listeners about his projects, and that his phone-ins would return on Sunday (8th) between 14:00 and 16:00, and would be aired daily except Friday and Saturday. The latest line-up (5th) was 00:00 Zoar Tal... 03:00 non-stop music with Ramon Tal (technical operator)... 06:00 John MacDonald... 09:00 Linda Maisson.... 12:00 John MacDonald... 13:00 Zoar Tal... 16:00 John MacDonald... 18:00 non-stop music with Ramon... 22:00 Linda Maisson. The m.v. Peace is currently anchored one mile north of its previous position, and also one mile nearer the coast. The recent storm saw waves up to 20 feet high, which explains why several of the staff were ill.

The other offshore station is still conducting test transmissions on 918kHz.

#### SHORTWAVE STATIONS

Log for Sunday 8th January 1989.

6205kHz...RADIO SKYWAVE, at 12:10gmt.

6207kHz...BM BROADCASTING, at 12:12gmt.

6215kHz...WORLD MISSION RADIO, at 10:38gmt.

6225kHz...UNID., at 12:05gmt.

6238kHz...RADIO MARABU, at 09:43gmt.

6239kHz...UNID., at 12:16gmt.

6245kHz...UNID., at 10:40gmt.

6273kHz...ROCK RADIO INT., at 11:05gmt.

6280kHz...UNID., at 10:35gmt.

6293kHz...ROMEO GOLF ONE, at 13:56gmt. [QSO]

6300kHz...W.F.R.L., at 10:59gmt.

6300kHz...RADIO ORION, at 13:13gmt.

6815kHz...RADIO EAST COAST COMMERCIAL, at 11:02gmt.

6875kHz...FALCON RADIO, at 09:39gmt.

6910kHz...RADIO DUBLIN INT., at 10:58gmt.

7290kHz...RADIO PACMAN INT., at 09:54gmt.

7374kHz...RADIO LUCE, at 08:05gmt.

7440kHz...RADIO WAVES INT., at 08:07gmt.

7440kHz...RADIO LIMIT INT., at 09:02gmt.

7490kHz...UNID., at 10:00gmt.

There seemed little on the bands early on this morning, and when eventually they did open up, we had severe interference from a neighbour's TV set. As a result all our later loggings were all unidentified. Thanks to David (Norwich), Stuart (Staffs.) and Neal (Midlands) who managed to fill in some we failed to identify. All reported poor conditions today. Strongest on the band here all morning, was Rock Radio International. They have an address of : 105 Bushmills Road, Coleraine, Co. Londonderry BT52 2BS, Northern Ireland.

Apparently MMR (Middlesex Music Radio) has now changed its name to Radio Skywave for its shortwave outlet. Since they use the BM Broadcasting address, it seems likely that the station logged on 6205kHz is the same one.

The unidentified station on 6225kHz was playing continuous music and jingles up until it cut off at around 12:38gmt.

The unidentified station on 6245kHz was playing a church service in English. The signal was below the beacon on this frequency, and not thought to be Vatican Radio.

Falcon Radio announced that they have now joined up with Radio Susan to form a new station playing only rock music, 'The Rock of Europe' after many requests have been received for such a station on the shortwave bands. Their address is MAC, P.O. Box 109, Northampton, England.

# **The WEEKLY REPORT**

## **ANORAKS**

### **The First with the News in Print**

No. 245....21st January 1989.

P.O. Box 539, BLACKPOOL FY1 4RE, England.

**COST:** The price of this weekly news-sheet (and cuttings) posted, is as follows... U.K. - First Class, 40p... U.K. - Second Class, 35p... E.E.C. (inc. Eire), 40p... European (non - E.E.C., but posted at full rate), 45p... Rest of the world (Air Mail), 55p. You may subscribe for as many weeks as you wish, but three is the minimum. Individually ordered copies are 50p each (First Class only).

**PAYMENT:** Any method of payment at all will be acceptable. We take Access, Visa and Girobank transfers (Acc. No. 12 141 6909), stamps (14p or 19p ones), IRC's, foreign currency (notes only), cash, cheques, bank drafts, postal orders (Irish too!), the latter all made payable to Anoraks U.K. Please check exchange rate when sending foreign money, and don't forget to add 10 or 20%! (Please note that the current IRC redemption value is only 23p).

**ADVERTISEMENTS:** A full page in Weekly Report will cost you just £25, a half, £13 or a quarter £7. Copy on white paper please. We will endeavour to see it is included in the next available issue (space permitting, of course). Small adverts are free to those holding a current subscription, but limited space may cause delays from time to time.

**INFO - LINE:** Currently a limited service is available from 19:00 until 07:00 daily, on Bradford (0274) 480590. This will soon be extended to a full 24 hour operation as soon as Telecom fits new lines.

**DATA PROTECTION:** The act of 1984 says we must tell you that names and addresses are stored on computer. We can remove them if you wish, but it may delay replies.

**NEW MERCHANDISE:** Last week's offer of 2 x C.90 tapes and 15 sheets of newspaper cuttings about the closure of a large number of the Irish pirates is to be called 'The 1988 Irish Close-Down Package'. This super package costs just £5 and constitutes great value for anyone just wanting a taste of the closures. Many stations are featured..... (For those wanting to hear full programmes, a selection of stations are available from Rodney Neill, 54 Abercorn Park, Portadown, Craigavon, Co. Armagh BT63 5JW, and from Rock Radio Int., 105 Bushmills Road, Coleraine, Co. Londonderry BT52 2BS.)

We have just received word from France informing us that Offshore Echo's, issue 74 is expected back from the printer at any moment. Post permitting, that means we could have copies within 14 days, so advance orders may now be placed at £2.00 each for Europe's Leading Free Radio Magazine... Our current annual sales sheet runs until 28th February, please ask if you have not received a copy. Most items are still in stock, but odd records are not, possibly a telephone call might not go amiss before you order a sale record. It is... (0253) 882017.

The Communicate 88 Package is still available, priced £5.00 for those who attended the event, and £8.00 for those who didn't. Please note that the interview cassettes will not be sold separately, as they are part of the total package.

Finally, we learn from Radio Netherlands that copies of the World Radio & TV Handbook 1989 have now reached Europe and are currently being distributed to wholesalers in each country. The book was reviewed on 'Media Network' and appeared to be greatly improved on previous years (again!). The price from us will be the cover price of £17.95 (postage free) and we expect supplies very soon.

**NEW ARRIVALS:** Late arriving last week (Saturday) was Now Radio, issue 91, with 24 x A5 pages of general radio news and information. Issue 92 duly arrived Friday. Details... P.O. Box 45, Kettering, Northants. NN16 0NW..... First to arrive this week was Freewave Magazine, issue 173, again A5 with 24 pages and general European radio news. The text is all Dutch however and details are from Hans Knot, Postbus 102, 9700 AC Groningen, The Netherlands..... Activity

**Magazine, issue 9.** 16 x A5 pages of pirate SW news, covering the recent festive period. Details from 3 Greenway, Harold Park, Romford, Essex RM3 0HH..... another late arrival (due to a postal strike in Milan), Play-DX, issue 531, the final one for 1988, with 6 x A4 sides of long distance logs and international news, mostly in English. Details... Dario Monferini, via Davanzati 8, 20158 Milano, Italy.

**NEW PUBLICATION:** The 1989 Pirate Radio Directory by George Zeller is the first book in the past several years to deal with pirate radio station activity in the United States and Canada. 1988 saw a significant increase in the level of pirate broadcasting activity coupled with a correspondingly heightened interest by listeners in tuning for these stations. The book highlights over 50 pirate shortwave broadcasters which were active in 1988. Information given on each station includes frequencies, programming formats and other identifying "marks" (such as announcer names), QSL and address information and so on. The book also includes an introductory chapter on pirate radio, a section on how to tune in pirate broadcasters and a review of European pirates which were heard in North America last year. There are also a number of illustrations featuring pirate station QSL's. Author George Zeller (besides being a baseball expert) is a well known specialist in covering pirate and clandestine radio. He writes the "Clandestine Profile" column monthly in Free Air, published by the Association of Clandestine Enthusiasts. This 8½ x 11 paperback is approximately 55 pages in length and priced at \$6 per copy (plus \$2 shipping to the U.K.) U.S. funds only. The booklet will be available around 1st February 1989 from Tiare Publications, P.O. Box 493, Lake Geneva, WI 53147, USA.

#### **RADIO STATION NEWS....IRELAND.**

Activity seems on the increase already with as many as nine stations reported as being on air in the past week or so, albeit some with a very limited service. The main areas appear to be Dublin, Waterford, Donegal, Galway and Monaghan. Two stations, Radio Dublin and Radio Star Country, never left the airwaves, and it is these two which are being monitored because it has been threatened that the electricity and telephone services are to be cut, on 19th January in the case of Radio Dublin.

An announcement was made during the week to the effect that the group, Century Communications Ltd., headed by Oliver Barry and Jim Stafford, had been successful in its bid to obtain the licence for the new national radio service. Several other consortiums had applied, including the Nova group headed by Chris Cary, although the outcome was not really a surprise. In fact, Cary, when interviewed after the hearing, told a local newspaper that his chances of getting it were 'about as good as Screaming Lord Sutch winning a by-election!'

**Co. DUBLIN:** As stated above, Radio Dublin continued, more or less as before, with 24 hour, 7 day operation on 1188kHz., 101.2MHz. and 6910kHz., all signals being noted in Blackpool. As far as we could tell, most shows were live, although we aren't able to monitor 24 hours. A limited number of adverts have been noted. However, at 09:44 on the morning of Thursday 19th January, following the playing of the current number one record, the D.J. said '...it is sixteen minutes to ten'.... and the 1188kHz. transmitter left the air abruptly. A quick check on FM yielded nothing there either and the same on short wave. So it looked likely that the ESB (Electricity Supply Board) had cut the power to the station. (It just seemed a little more than co-incidental that it should go off that morning, after having been on continuously since going 'illegal' two weeks previous.) A quick check was made of RTE's local news, but nothing was heard, then at 10:35, the transmitter fired up again and the Radio Dublin Song

was played, followed by more music. Very few announcements were made and when they were, nothing was mentioned about the break. It certainly looked like something happened then and the station are not going to talk about, but at least they are back on, on all three channels. We noticed that following a long period without any problems, a severe buzz is now apparent on 6910kHz. Whether this appeared since the break on Thursday 19th, is not known.

On the weekend of 7/8th, Dublin was joined by Hospital Radio on 97.4MHz., Radio McKenzie on 106.6MHz., K 104 from Glasnevin on 103.3MHz. and an unidentified station on 104.2MHz., playing just non-stop music.

Friday 13th saw K 104 on 103.3MHz. in stereo from 18:00 to 19:30 and unidentified stations on 104.2MHz. and 103.5MHz., the latter relaying BBC Radio 2.

Saturday saw the return of Hospital Radio, on 97.4MHz. again, with live programming.

As yet, we have only received the two Dublin signals, but we continue to listen out for others from the same area.

Co. WATERFORD: Since the closure of WLR and ABC in the city, the local newspapers featured articles on both stations. The News & Star mentioned the survey carried out by Wilton Research & Marketing for WLR and a great deal of controversy has since arisen. They claimed that 77% of the people wanted WLR to get the licence, less than 20% for ABC and only 1% for NCR. ABC Radio are also having a similar listeners survey carried out at the moment, in the city.

There are five runners for the new licence in the Waterford area, rumoured to be an FM only service of 10kw. They are... the three stations, who all closed down, the Munster Express (newspaper) and a business consortium thought to be closely linked to the Waterford United Football Club. The names of the applicants will be made known on 21st January, the day after the closing date for applications.

Since the closure of the three stations in Waterford, a new station has begun broadcasting. Tests were carried out from 9th to 11th January and on Thursday 12th, live shows and a few taped shows were broadcast on 88.6MHz. in super stereo. The station identified as Laser 89 and could only be described as what Chris Cary would describe as very slick and professional. Some of the D.J.'s voices are familiar and some are new to the FM band in the city. They announce accurate time checks and say '... this is commercial free radio for Waterford City...'. Some of the original Laser jingles are used, mixed in with more general ones. Pop music, especially 12" mixes, is played, also some country. Laser 89 comes on at 08:00 and usually broadcasts to about 20:00. It is thought that about 40 watts of power is being used and this is covering the city with a superb stereo signal. Nothing more is known about the station, but rumours circulating suggest they could be joined by another one before too long.

Co. DONEGAL: Radio North continues on 846kHz. and FM locally. Adverts, both from the south and north, seem rather plentiful and the continued use of the U.K. address in the north (in Ballymoney) is noticeable. A mixture of country and popular music is aired here, although country does take up a greater part. An on the hour daily news service is also a feature of the station. The signal on 846kHz. continues to be very strong and can be heard over an even wider area after dark. Since Monday, it has been noticed that the station is identifying itself as '... broadcasting right across the north west of Ireland, Northside Radio on 98FM and 846AM...'. No reason is known for this change of name, however.

Co. MONAGHAN: Eyes are currently focused on Radio Star Country (891kHz.) from the Swan Lake Hotel, Monaghan Town, as they could be a target for a 'raid' by the Government's agents (the electricity and telephone people). Totally country music, the station boasts many adverts, again from both the north and south of the border. In anticipation of this, the station seems to have introduced a new advertising details number.... Armagh (0861) 527473. This, of course, is a U.K. number, and it is quite legal to operate this and take advertising from the north. The station is a treat to listen to and must help fill an enormous void left by those country stations who chose to close down. KISS FM still have their big transmitter active (1.2 MegaWatt e.r.p. towards Belfast), with just a test tone on at present. The frequency is thought to be between 103.8 and 103.85. It is difficult to tell here, due to our local BBC station on 103.9MHz. It is not known if programmes will re-commence,

but the fact that the transmitter is still on suggests they have something up their sleeves.

Co. GALWAY: The only action in the west seems to be from Galway city where a station with the unusual name of Quincentenial Radio has surfaced on 98.4MHz. Nothing more about this one is known, however.

Our thanks to the various contributors for this section.

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### OFF-SHORE RADIO STATIONS

The Voice of Peace... Report from 7th - 12th January.

Saturday 7th saw a new guy doing the night-beat programme between 03:00 and 06:00 and although he never spoke on that first show, he has done subsequently (in English) and it turns out that he is an Israeli called Offer Nachshon. There were no phone-ins with Abie during the whole week, but he still goes on the air several times a day talking about his latest project (sending a ship with food and clothes to the people of Armenia). Hourly promos plug this project heavily. Monday 9th and the station was off the air due to storms and the fact that the popular D.J., Zoar Tal was unwell. The stand-in D.J. Ramon Tal has now left the ship and returned to the office on land where he is a technical operator. His replacement is expected to come from the U.K., along with a couple of others who will replace Linda Maisson and Offer Nachshon. Kenny Page returned from leave on 10th and allowed John McDonald to take his break. The line-up on 12th reads.... 00:00 Zoar Tal, 03:00 Offer Nachshon, 06:00 Kenny Page, 09:00 Linda Maisson, 12:00 Kenny Page, 13:00 Zoar Tal, 16:00 Kenny Page, 18:00 Non-stop with Offer Nachshon, 22:00 Linda Maisson.

The other offshore venture Channel Seven returned to the air after the storm. The ship heads for the port of Haifa every time a storm brews as it experiences generator problems due to the location of same. It is currently anchored two miles south of the Peace ship.

WANTED. Caroline (Ross Revenge) programme logs prior to 1987, or copies of Caroline news from OEM. Send details to Sean, 32 Clarence Road, Brentwood, Essex. Tel. (0277) 216308 after 6pm.

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**LAND-BASED STATIONS : U.K.** The latest in the line of 'pirate radio stations' being written into television programmes, appeared this week when the DoTI men attempted to raid a station in 'The Bill'. A man who typified the attitude of many DTI inspectors, forced the reluctant police to raid the station, but in the end they got away! Jonathan King was also on the side of the pirates in his column in The Sun newspaper of Thursday, 19th January. Some unusually (for a national daily) scathing comments were made about a recent statement from Minister Robert Atkins. Let the publicity continue!

**London Festive Survey (Part 2) : 24/12/88-10/1/89.**

As the New Year ground on, and confidence returned and grew, the situation was to change dramatically. An experimental period of waiting to see what would happen from official quarters, was followed by a further period, as stations, new and old, jockeyed for position. That second weekend was to see the return of several old favourites to the London airwaves, as the vacant slots started to be filled. Back again, or testing, are revitalised rockers London Rock (98.1), and W London rockers Radio Free London (92.0-not to be confused with short wavers Wonderful Free Radio London), and new rockers Magic Radio (105.0). They have been joined with tests from black music stations Groove (93.75) and AOR (97.95) and also Q-102 (102.0).

Mystery surrounds the source of the sounds coming out of 93.95 this week. A tape loop of sixties hits, which sounds a bit like one of those cheapo Italian imports that Woolworths sell for pennies, has been pounding out 24 hours a day since Wednesday 3rd January. It started off with a horrendous noise, that all but obliterated the up-rated Classic Radio (94.2) as well as most of the R4 relays in the area. By the weekend, the 60's tape had turned into a Greek tape of equally awful sound quality, and sometimes worse, and this has been running ever since. No ID's have been noted at all so far.

The following stations were heard at one time or another between December 24th and January 4th... London Greek Radio (88.45) - Sunrise (8.7) - Euro Jam (89.5) - London Arab (89.7) - RJR (90.0) - Meridian (90.05) - Rock-to-Rock (90.2) - Supreme (90.4) - Passion (90.7) - WLIB (90.95) - Sky (91.7-stereo) - LWR (92.05-stereo) - Studio (92.65) - Star (93.1) - Starpoint (93.25) - KISS FM (94.0-stereo) - Classic C R (94.2) - Rock FM (94.3) - City Radio (94.6) - Traffic Jam Radio (97.95) - Joy Radio (97.85) - Stage (98.1) - London Rock (98.1) - Hits FM (98.45) - Veronica 102 (101.9) - Time (102.2) - Sound of the Big Apple (102.5) - SMR (102.7) - WNK (102.95) - Fresh/Asian Community Radio (103.35) - Peoples (103.7) - JBC (104.25-stereo) - Greek Community Radio (104.45) - Tropical (105.1) - Direct Line Radio (105.5) - Pioneer (105.45) and one unidentified signal on 104.4 on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

Over the Christmas and New year period at least 38 stations were known to be operating, only four of these were in stereo. Despite the closure of 16 stations, byt the weekend of 6th/10th January no less than 36 outfits were heard, but only one in stereo, and that was a short test. No less than 9 new, or re-vitalised organisations were noted. The most gratifying, has been the re-emergence of rock radio, with RFL, LR and Magic. It may be that this has seen the close of one era, but the opening up of a totally new phase in privateer radio, with the promise of more to come.

The following were heard on the weekend of 6/9th January... Euro-Jam (89.5)... Meridian (90.0)... Rock-to-Rock (90.2)... Supreme (90.5)... SRI (90.85)... WLIB (90.95)... Sky (91.65)... RFL (92.0)... Star (92.95)... Starpoint (93.25)... Groove (93.75)... 60's loop tape (93.95)... Greek tape loop (94.0)... CCR (94.25)... R-FM (94.3-stereo)... Joy (97.85)... AOR (97.95)... Stage (98.1)... London Rock (98.1)... Hits FM (98.4)... Veronica 102 (101.9)... Q-102 (102.0)... Time (102.15)... SoBA (102.5)... SLR (102.75)... ACR (103.35)... People's (103.75)... Magic (105.0)... Tropical (105.1)... Pioneer (105.4) and were joined by the return of Sunrise Radio (88.75) and Passion Radio (90.7) in the early hours of Monday.

**London Weekend Survey : 13th-17th January 1989.**

Sunday evening. Pete Summer's Magic FM failed to even make a test this week. But, as has been pointed out, he does consistantly sit over the top of emergency frequencies with very powerful tx's, while ignoring the relative safety of nearby vacant slots. On the other hand, a jubilant Radio Free London (92.0) celebrated their return to weekend broadcasting after last week's successful tests. City Side (98.4), the successor to Hits FM, have been troubled with a lot of down time since before Christmas. Back on Friday

13th Jan., they didn't last more than a few hours before going on the missing list again. They returned for the afternoon of Sunday 15th Jan., but had gone again Monday.

Veronica 102 (101.9) the Sunday super smoothies, with the sound of 'Gold over London', has some of the most professional sounding jocks of any of the Privateers in the London region. Sounding as radio should, with confident presenters lucidly 'talking up' to the vocal without 'cocking up' and not displaying the propensity to prolong the intervals between the music. Format radio, certainly, but entertainingly put together. A new site, and the start of a re-engineering programme, has meant that the 'golden groovers' got much further into S London on Sunday January 15th, than the previous week. By the time you read this, the engineering should be complete, with a move to yet another new site on the heights of increasingly popular E London, and the much heralded 'Big Stereo Rig' should be up and running at last. Reach should be improved, not only in distance, but on quality as well. Listenership has been increasingly steadily, as the dedication line and advertisers attest.

E London's powerhouse WLIB (90.95) disappeared from the airwaves on Sunday 1st Jan., when it found that the link transmitter was interefering with a new 'yuppie-phone' set up. Not wishing to un-necessarily antagonise the users, and to keep up their community image by not causing any further interference, it was decided to stay off the air until a new link could be provided. This was not to be until Friday 6th Jan., but now the black music station with the rock and roll jingles, is back, and booming out London wide. While on the other side of town, Time Radio (102.2) are not so much 'Big Time' as 'Part Time', as even though they are back to live broadcasting, it is still mid-day before they come on. Joining Time R from the now defunct Fresh organisation is top rated teen hip-hop jock Chris Nat, who between 'O' Level studies, manages to fill in the daily, evening drive time show. It looks as though Time was hit as they were out both Sunday and Monday. Tuesday saw them back on the slightly lower 101.9MHz slot.

While the great solidarity eye of the regional tv newsrooms last week blandly sat back and allowed themselves to be spoonfed the usual rubbish from an un-named spokesperson, at a stage managed DoTI news conference, beneath their tunnel vision they missed the real story of what was happening in the mean back streets, and the tower locks of the great metropolis. The London Evening Standard has got hold of a garbled version (cuttings 243), but has failed to follow through. A story that will need the powers of Superman to sort out, as the creeping tide of villainy starts to take hold of this popular underground sub-culture. Privateer radio will soon become the meanest game in town, with the intrusion of racketeers now beginning to be felt as they fight it out with guns and knives for the control of a lucrative source of income. Sitting in the darkened confines of a studio, or more like somebody's spare unused bedroom, with only a head set, and possible a Pager to keep company with, in the dead hours of the night, may not be everybody's idea of passing the time. While most of the overnight jocks sound as though they are suffering from brain death, or at the very least pumped full of thorazine, at least until recently, it was a relatively safe and harmless activity. Now, evidence to the contrary is beginning to come to the fore. A pirate radio studio has never been the safest place to be in town, as the next knock on the door may be just a cup of coffee arriving, or, at the worst, the DTI to take the place to bits. Now it seems as though there is a distinct possibility of the local posse coming through the door, with the aim of taking over, or wrecking the place because of 'unpaid insurance'. At least one station is known to have suffered this fate in th last couple of months, as men battled with each other in the flats, and knives were used, and axes, and even shooters are said to have been involved. While the business has been allowed to remain outside the main control of the legislature, through the vacillation of self important politicos, frightened to allow the people of the land the kind of entertainment it wants, it is not surprising that the radio underground is becoming controlled by the Underworld. Stories have been whispered in the back rooms before now, of links with crime cartels, but this is the first time a known posse has taken over. Given the background of theft and sabotage, and with the vast amounts of money involved, it is little wonder that this has not happened before.

Tape loops have abounded over the last few weeks as new organisations test the water, partly to see how the DotI men will react, and partly to safeguard the channel from anyone else pirating it from them. Apart from the nearly, non-stop top forty loopers **City Side**, there are or have been, four tape loopers on the air in the last couple of weeks. Two weeks of incredibly bad tapes preceded the debut of **Lazer Radio** last week. It is possible that more than one organisation was involved, as neither test tape was up to the standard of sound quality that Lazer eventually put out. The feeling is that Lazer had been forced into coming on the air earlier than intended, when it found that someone was already testing on the slot recently vacated by **KISS FM**. It probably felt it necessary to assert its position, and flexed its mighty muscles to push over the top, before either of the other outfits became established. **Lazer Radio** (94.0-stereo) are using all the old nautical inserts, and have had some new ones specially recorded by Bill Mitchell for the launch. Although the name Lazer conjures up the sounds of the top forty in most minds, this incarnation is, in fact, yet another soul station. As one industry source said, 'great jingles - shame about the music'. If industry stories are to be believed, this is the re-incarnation of one of the industry's biggies, who made a lot of noise about closing down in the pursuit of legality and a licence. In fact, the Greek tape used on 94.0 re-surfaced on Monday 16th Jan. on 98.1MHz, and has been non-stop since, much to the consternation of soul weekenders **Stage FM**. Industry sources believe this may be the re-emergence of Greek Radio for London. It may not be there long, as the E London soulsters are planning to sabotage the Greek efforts, by coming on air with a tuning signal, from a specially up-rated transmitter. **Stage's** efforts have so far not put off weekend rockers **London Rock**, who also use that same frequency, possibly as Stage don't know they are there! The much vaunted **Q-102** op, has moved from 102, where last they were heard, and have finally settled down on 102.3, between Harlesden's **Time Radio** (102.1) and the **Sound of The Big Apple** (102.4). They ran a stereo loop 24 hours a day until Sunday, when this was substituted with a tuning signal. The problem appears to be slow staff recruitment to put on a 7/24 show. At the opposite end of the dial, **Harp FM** are having similar staff problems. In the meantime they have re-surfaced with a tape loop of recent top forty successes on 88.45. This, it is understood, is going to be replaced with a more suitable tape. Harp will be going live, as soon as enough people are gathered around, and the music format will change to the ubiquitous soul and reggae styles we all know and love so well.

Among those failing to appear this week, were **London Rock**, although a dead carrier was heard on 98.1 while **Stage** could just be about made out in the background. **Rock-FM** (94.3) have not got a replacement tx for the one stolen last week, but are making every effort, and made a short symbolic gesture with an old low power stand-by tx from an alternative site, in the early part of Sunday.

The DotI Men have been out and about in an effort to stop the rising tide of 'Privateer Radio'. Even with hits on an estimated minimum ten stations, there were still 28 stations heard, of which three were in stereo. The men from the London Lubianka must be becoming increasingly alarmed, as the measures designed to reduce the numbers of 'Privateers' are seen not to be working, with at least four new or re-vitalised set-ups having taken to the air this week. Within weeks, the FM band is expected to be as crowded as it was in the days before Christmas, or the heady days of last summer.

Heard this week were... **Harp FM** (88.45)... **Sunrise** (88.75)... **Euro Jam** (89.5)... **RJR** (90.0)... **Supreme** (90.5)... **Passion** (90.7)... **WLIC** (90.95)... **Sky** (91.65)... **Radio Free London** (92.0)... **Studio** (92.65)... **Star** (92.95)... **Starpoint** (93.25)... **Lazer** (94.0-stereo)... **CCR** (94.2)... **R-FM** (94.2)... **Joy** (97.85)... **Greek test tape** (98.1)... **Stage** (98.1)... **City Side** (98.45)... **Veronica 102** (101.9)... **Time** (102.1)... **Q-102** (on tests 102.3)... **SoBA** (102.4)... **SLR** (102.7)... **Switch** (103.1)... **ACR** (103.35)... **People's** (103.7) and **GCR** (104.45).

Once again thanks to Sid for another excellent piece of research. More next week.

**Manchester / Cheshire.** Four stations have been monitored on the FM band over the past week. **Laser 103.5** is still operating a full time schedule on 103.5MHz, whilst their former daily competitor **WBLS** (102.4) is now more erratic and seem to keep its programmes mainly to the evenings.

Two other operations are currently on the air, **Super Fresh FM** (98.35) and **Unity** (104.8). Both operate a large number of hours, mainly during the evening.

Religious station **Outlook 96.3** currently only operate one night per week, being heard each Sunday from 20:00 until 22:00. Their last Sunday broadcast was weaker than normal, and could not be received here in Blackpool **Merseyside**. The surprise last weekend was the return (for the first time since October 1988), of Rick Dane and **Radio Atlantis** to the airwaves on the original 1197kHz. channel. This is now a clearer frequency since the closure of Telstar Community Radio in Dundalk on 31st December 1988. The signal from Atlantis here was good, and Rick was announcing programmes for Saturday and Sunday (10am until 10pm), but he was planning to extend these quite soon. Plenty of adverts were noted, and it was as though the station had never been off. Across at **Radio Merseywaves**, the expected programmes did not appear last weekend, although a carrier was in evidence on 1242kHz. most of Sunday (15th). The only other we monitored was **North Coast Radio** on 1350kHz., who programmed throughout Saturday and Sunday, again with an extremely strong signal. They were also announcing 104.85MHz. FM (for certain areas), as they did last week, but this was not receivable here. A blank carrier was on 1350kHz. all day Monday, but no programmes were noted by us. At time of writing (Friday afternoon 20th), there were no stations audible from the area.

**Newcastle-Upon-Tyne.** No stations were heard last weekend.

**The Midlands.** Following the closure of Enterprise at the end of last year, **Radio P.C.R.L.** (103.5) announced that it was closing in an attempt to obtain a licence. A 'P.C.R.L. going off the air party' is to be held at the Hummingbird Entertainment Centre on Saturday 21st January. The station has not been heard for a while, but a noisy carrier remained on 103.55 until it disappeared sometime during Thursday 12th January. This leaves just **Powerhouse Radio** (105.3) as the only 24 hour operator in the West Midlands area. Other stations on the air daily include **Local Black Country Radio** (105.9-evenings).

Two new stations came on the air this past week. One calling itself **FM 104** and the other **Centre Radio**. **Centre Radio** was heard broadcasting for the first time on Sunday 15th January on 99.2MHz. There was also an 'unofficial' relay of the station on 105.6MHz. Live broadcasts were being announced, and a contact telephone number of (0384) 287363 was being given out. **FM 104** is a new West Indian station that was first heard on Thursday 12th January on 104.0MHz. It was on the air again the following two days. During the Saturday morning programmes there were lots of advertisements for the aforementioned P.C.R.L. party, giving rise to the suspicion that this station has been borne out of some of the supporters/staff of that station. Although thanks were given to P.C.R.L. staff for their co-operation, it was stressed that FM 104 has nothing to do with P.C.R.L.

Also heard last weekend were **Fresh FM** (95.05), on Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday (14th) they were noted with a stereo signal for the first time. On the same two days, **Metro FM** was noted on 104.95MHz. On 14th, **Quest FM** came on-air on 103.5MHz., using the name **Sunrise Community Radio**. They were first noted at 13:45 with deejay TNT, and was followed by Al Capone! The station left the air at 23:05 with technical problems. The following day they were back as **Quest FM**.

Finally, an unidentified Asian station was heard on Saturday 14th, at 106.05MHz. Many thanks to Neal and Anthony for the news this week.

**Yorkshire, Humberside & Derbyshire.** The silence in Leeds was broken this week, with the appearance of a new station, **Lethal FM**. They were first noted on Tuesday evening (17th), with tests, on 97.85MHz, although announcing other frequencies around this channel. Tests were again heard into the night on Wednesday. An address of Howard, c/o 65 Linfield View, Moortown, Leeds LS17 6PA, was announced, and the presenters noted so far have been Howard, Gareth and Allen. It was announced that from Thursday they would be going stereo. No other stations were noted.

In Bradford the two 7 day stations have operated as normal with no problems, and they are **Paradise City Radio** (104.9) and **Harmony Radio** (105.3). Also heard from this area (Halifax) was **Telstar Radio** (105.45).

To the east, **W.L.N.G.** made what is now a regular appearance, last Thursday evening on 104.95MHz.

In the south of the county **Radio Britannia** (98.2) made

a live broadcast last Friday (13th), between 19:00 and 20:30, with host Kenny Crescendo taking a roving microphone outside (with 80 metres os cable!), in an attempt to interview suspicious people in a yellow mini. However they were frightened off before contact could be made. Elsewhere Village Radio (104.85) appeared on Sunday, announcing that the station would be closing down soon, but was hoping to make it to its first birthday broadcast in March. Finally, Rebel Radio (105.4) were on as normal between 20:00 and 22:00 on Monday (16th).

**Bristol** Christmas was a good one in the city, with plenty of free radio activity, despite the probable loss of the areas most consistant station Radio For The People (103.7-stereo), who are going off the air in an attempt to obtain a licence. This station was receiving lots of publicity in its final days of broadcasting, much of it organised by the station itself, or at least with their help. Free car stickers were obtainable from a hi-fi shop (black on yellow "F.T.P. Radio 103.7 stereo FM"). HTV also carried a story on the station's application for a licence on 22nd December. On this, there were claims of three raids on the station, as well as film of the studios, the enormous aerial and the transmitter (situated in a kitchen!) The following morning, staff on F.T.P. were heard appealing for videos of the show, as they had missed it. Christmas Eve saw station satff wandering around town collecting signatures for a licence.

Christmas Eve also saw the return of Rough and Wicked Radio on 104.2MHz. New equipment was being tested out here, and although audio was clear, there was a noticeable hum throughout the broadcast. Tests were again made on Christmas morning, and again at 19:30. By 21:15 this had disappeared, and a weak Savage Yet Tender Radio was heard on 104.4MHz., in stereo. This station programmed in the early hours of Monday. Slightly late on, on Xmas Day was Emergency Radio (97.9-mono), but they did go into the early hours of Boxing Day. 31st December arrived, and Rough and Wicked Radio, and Radio F.T.P. both programmed all day. At 22:20, music on R.A.W. Radio cut off, and shortly after Raw Master Dee made a final farewell announcement on behalf of all the deejays. The R.A.W. became a memory. Meanwhile at Radio F.T.P., a party was in progress running through until midnight when it fizzled away with the voices of Master C and Soulful D.

New Year's Day dawned, and the band was silent except for Savage Yet Tender Radio (104.4-stereo). The partying must have got to them, as some of the tapes were mixed up in the day, and programmes went out in the wrong order.

**OFF-SHORE RADIO STATIONS : Radio Caroline.** Very little seems to happening at the moment. We left the station on Wednesday 11th January, having been on and off the air the previous day. They had similar problems attempting to get back into full programmes that morning. A record was played at 06:46, and then it cut off. A carrier was noted at 07:22, followed by music a minute later. By 07:25 it was off again, returning at 08:02, with Steve Conway saying 'we're back' at 08:05 and Nigel Harris completing the breakfast show. Things then started to go well, with Caroline Martin beginning at 09:00, and getting into her third hour before at 11:09 the transmitter cut off again. The carrier was back at 13:24, and music then followed, with Steve Conway reading the weather at 13:29. Neil Gates continued at 13:37, with Dave Asher and 'Powerdrive' taking over at 16:00. Nick Jackson programmed between 19:00 and 23:00, with Neil Gates finishing off between then at 01:00 Thursday morning. No breaks were noted after 13:24 that day. Whatever the problems were last week, they seemed to have sorted themselves out, although reports from many readers indicate that that power is down on 558kHz. The full line-up for Thursday (12th) was... 05:00 Nigel Harris... 09:00 Caroline Martin... 13:00 Neil Gates... 16:00 Dave Asher (powerdrive)... 19:00 Nick Jackson... 23:00 Neil Gates... 01:05 news and closedown. The sattion went 24 hours at the weekend, but unlike previous weeks when Mike Watts hosted overnight, he was not heard. Instead Nick Jackson did the 'graveyard' slot, and Steve Conway added to his news duties by presenting the breakfast show on both Saturday and Sunday (14th/15th). The beginning of this week saw the same line-up as the end of last week, with cloedown at just after 01:00. A new closedown announcement cartridge has been introduced at this time, featuring the voice of Steve Conway, who states that that station will recommence broadcasts at 05:00. Wednesday saw a few changes to the

staff. Breakfast and morning shows were as normal, but at 13:00, Dave Asher stood in for Neil Gates. Nick Jackson took over 'powerdrive' between 16:00 and 19:00, Caroline Martin returned between 19:00 and 21:00, with Dave Asher rounding off the evening until closedown at midnight. Thursday morning saw Steve Conway on breakfast, followed by Caroline Martin. It appears at the time of writing, as though Neil Gates and Nigel Harris have both gone on shore leave. Both have been on board for a considerable time. So far we have no reports of new voices being heard. On his Thursday breakfast show, Steve made comments making us think that there were no replacements for Nigel and Neil. At 08:33 he said that he had to do everything today, and had just been next door reading the news on another station! There seemd to be trouble with the cartridge machines also that morning, as at least one of them sounded very muffled. A new news jingle was noted at 08:30, with a voice that sounded like Charlie Wolf.

An interesting note from John in Inverness tells us that he was surprised to receive a letter and QSL information sheet from Mike Watts, engineer on Radio Caroline. This seemd to be in response to a good wishes letter sent to Caroline before Christmas. It's nice to hear from people who have received replies after taking the trouble to send a letter to the station.

**Radio 819.** According to announcements put out occasionally over the festive period, the power of the signal on 819kHz will be greatly improved as of 1st February. The announcements also stated that breaks in transmission would be made during the month of January. We shall see whether these predictions are correct.

**World Mission Radio.** This service was last noted by us on 8th January, but not since. The off air peiod ties in with the time problems were also being encountered on 558 and 819. It is only speculation, but it could be that work being carried out on the front mast, has necessitated the removal of the shortwave aerial wire, which was attached half way up the front pole.

**WANTED.** A current schedule of broadcast programmes on World Mission Radio, for a magazine article which is currently being compiled. If you can help, please write to Andy Rayment, 25 Kingston Drive, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY2 6SD.

#### SHORTWAVE STATIONS.

Log for Sunday 15th January 1989.

6238kHz...FRS HOLLAND, at 10:58gmt.

6266kHz...TOTAL CONTROL RADIO, at 10:25gmt.

6273kHz...ROCK RADIO INTERNATIONAL, at 11:00gmt.

6280kHz...UNID., at 09:34gmt.

6288kHz...RADIO ORION, at 08:36gmt.

6300kHz...RADIO ORION, at 12:36gmt.

6582kHz...UNID., at 11:24gmt.

6815kHz...RADIO EAST COAST COMMERCIAL, at 11:02gmt.

6875kHz...FALCON RADIO, at 09:06gmt.

6910kHz...RADIO DUBLIN INT., at 10:45gmt.

7375kHz...UNID., at 08:24gmt.

7375kHz...RADIO WAVES INT., at 10:35gmt.

7440kHz...RADIO WAVES INT., at 11:17gmt.

Reception conditions today were a disaster at our location, with someone in the locality doing a bit of DIY with noisy electrical implements. With general conditions not very good, this gave a morning of straining to listen to the weak signals. Once again the strongest here was Rock Radio International. The UNID. on 6280kHz. appeared to be in English, Radio Orion's transmissions on 6280kHz. were a test to North America and the UNID. on 6582kHz. was possibly Radio Batida. Many thanks to Stuart (Staffs.), David (Norwich) and Neal (west Midlands) who kindly supplied us with their logs this week, despite experiencing similar difficulties. Hopefully things will improve next week.

Noticeable by its absence this week was World Mission Radio on 6215kHz. This transmitter was last noted on 8th January. We are unsure as to whether there is a transmitter fault, or work is being done on the aerial system aboard the m.v. Ross Revenge.

The unidentified station on 6280kHz was in the English language. The unidentified station on 6582kHz was heard playing an Anoraks U.K. advert by Charlie Wolf, when we listened, and was possibly Radio Batida.

Our thanks as ever to all contributers for information etc., received.

30 JAN 1989

# The WEEKLY REPORT

## ANORAKS

### The First with the News in Print

No. 246.....28th January 1989.

P.O. Box 539, BLACKPOOL FY1 4RE, England.

**PRICE:** The cost of WR posted direct to you is as follows.... first class (U.K.), 40p..... second class (U.K.), 35p..... EEC countries (inc. Eire), 40p..... non-EEC European countries, 45p..... elsewhere, 55p (air mail). You may subscribe for as many weeks as you wish, but three is the minimum, otherwise individually ordered copies are 50p each (first class).

**PAYMENTS:** Any acceptable means will do, but no foreign coins please. Access, Visa and Girobank transfers are very convenient for the customer. (Giro No. 12 141 6909).

**ADVERTISEMENTS:** You can have a full page in WR for just £25 (£ = £13 & £ = £7), just let us have your copy on white paper, and the remittance, of course. Small ads of a couple of lines or so are free to current subscribers, but expect delays at times as space is often scarce.

**INFO-LINE:** Ring Bradford (0274) 480590, but only between 19:00 and 07:00. A full 24 hour service should resume shortly.

**NEW MERCHANDISE:** Offshore Echo's, issue 74 is now in stock thanks to some very quick work by the cross channel postman! 64 x A5 pages in this latest edition, covering Caroline, Radio 819, Voice of Peace, along with interviews with Ad Roberts and Fergie McNeil 'deejay themes', 'where are they now?', 'radio nostalgia' and international news. Avail now of Europe's leading free radio magazine by sending £2.00 today..... Anyone not yet in possession of 'The 1988 Irish Close-Down Package' is missing a treat. Three hours of close-down action ranging from the sheer professionalism of the super pirates like Q, Sunshine and ERI, nostalgia from Boyneside, excitement from Kiss and Capitol, fun from WABC, tears from Telstar, a country close-down and a super station song from North, right down to the legend himself, 'John The Man' from Limerick. Lots of chat, final airchecks, jingles and goodbyes from 19 stations, plus a little bit of important music. This, along with 15 sheets of newspaper cuttings, comes to you at the incredible price of just £5.00! We should just like to point out that we still have available the 1983 documentary *The Great Irish Radio Experiment-The End?*, featuring the closures of Nova (twice!), Sunshine and South Coast Radio, and their respective returns. This C.90 cassette, narrated by John Lewis, costs £5.00 too.

**TAPE OFFERS:** In view of the massive demand for the above package and also for *The Communicate '88 Interviews*, we have been forced to shelve any further tape offers for a few days. We apologise for this and for any delays with your tape orders.

**NEW ARRIVALS:** Medium Wave News, vol 34, No.7. A 20 x A5 page magazine for the MW DX-er, with lots of logs, features and news.... details about joining the MW Circle from Bill Shaw, 1 Alt Avenue, Liverpool L31 7BJ.... Horizon, issue 7. 12 x A5 pages in this issue, featuring offshore events, past and present, plus logs. Details from Jenny Knight, 121 Monkton Street, Monkton, Ramsgate CT12 4JQ.... Radiotelex, issue 142, 4 x A5 sides of SW logs and station news in English...very thorough. Details from RT, c/o Duempter Strasse 6, D 4100 Duisburg 12, West Germany.... Play-DX, issue 532, 6 x A4 sides of long distance logs and international news, mostly in English. Details from Dario Monferini, via Davanzati 8, 20158 Milano, Italy.

**RADIO STATION NEWS....IRELAND:** No sooner had we gone to print last weekend than word reached us of yet another major border station back on air. At this rate, and we are now in double figures, they are all going to be back, in some form or other.

An announcement on Monday, heard on RTE news, told us that there had been 83 applicants for the 25 commercials radio licences on offer in the country. The bulletins varied throughout the afternoon, but we deduced that, as expected, about a dozen applicants sought the lucrative Dublin

franchises, just less than this sought the Cork ones, about seven sought the Limerick region, the same number, Monaghan and just one the Kilkenny area, and of course, others. A later bulletin read out the actual applicants for the Dublin region, they were.... Sunshine Radio, Q 102, Class, Dublin City Radio, Radio Dublin, Capitol, Capitol Radio, Metro Radio, Aerview, Country Radio, Liffey Trust, Navarro, Radio 2000 and Gway-lyn (spelling?). March was mentioned as being the time when the successful Dublin area ones could be informed.

**Co. Dublin:** We mentioned several low power operators from the area last week and a few additions to this list have been brought to our attention. Premier Radio were noted on 1413kHz. locally on 1st and 8th January and also on FM, around 104MHz. It is possible this may be the same station as the occasional short wave operator and also the one we listed last week on 104.2MHz. as unidentified. An unidentified carrier on 98.8MHz. is thought could belong to Pulsar 98 and another unidentified on 101.5MHz., which occasionally springs into life playing Sunshine Radio's last day, is thought could belong to a station called 'Kiss 105'.

In his station news last Sunday (15th), 'Captain' Eamon Cooke confirmed our suspicions that Radio Dublin had had both their telephone and electric cut off on Thursday 19th January, on the direction of the minister. He had got back on the air fairly quickly, with the use of a stand-by generator, but later that day took out an injunction against the minister, who duly had to embarrassingly authorise the restoration of both services for the time being. Whilst the electric proved no problem, the same could not be said for the telephone which took considerably longer. He went on to say that he expected to be on the air with little trouble until at least April. The current injunction is only temporary and lasts until Monday 30th January. On this day, Eamon is due back in court, and it is understood that he will apply for a permanent injunction to keep his electricity and telephone supplies connected. This will then last until the high court finally sorts out whether the 1988 Wireless Telegraphy Act is legal under the constitution. He did not exactly appeal for funds but did mention that these court cases cost a fortune and was hoping that business people rather than listeners would donate money for the cause, throughout the country. Eamon stated that almost £3000 had been spent already, and they had not yet got to the high court. Northside Radio are actively appealing for funds for this purpose.

**Co. Monaghan:** The carrier on 103.85MHz. continues to be noted, with test tones from time to time. This is the transmitter of KISS FM, although no programmes or ID's have gone out as yet. Radio Star Country continues with its 24 hour, 7 day operation on 891kHz., but we believe they have moved studios from the Swan Lake Hotel to their transmitter site at Emyvale. As we write (Friday afternoon) the station has just announced that they will be changing frequency to 981kHz during the next few days. (Hometown Radio occupied this frequency up until 31st December 1988).

**Co. Louth:** On Thursday evening, 19th, music tapes were reported on 103.25MHz. We noted the signal on Friday and it eventually announced itself as the return of Zee 103 and although tapes are noted from time to time, notably at night, normal live programmes are evident at others. Owen Barry (previously with KISS FM) has been heard hosting programmes in the early afternoon.

A 'new local radio station' with some 'well known' voices (formerly heard on Rainbow Radio in Carrickcarnon), calling itself Border Weekend Radio was reported heard last weekend. Operating on 1152kHz. and 98.5MHz., originally the frequencies of Rainbow Radio, the station has not been

received here in Blackpool due to co-channel operators. The station began operating around 15:00 on Friday on medium wave, with FM following on Saturday morning, and programmes went on until midnight on Sunday evening. There were no adverts as such, but each block of programming was sponsored by a local shop/firm.

**Co. Donegal:** Following our report last week that Radio North had changed its name to Northside Radio, it appears that the whole operation has been re-launched, with new jingles, promos and a brand new location and studios. These are to be found in the Redcastle Country Hotel, Redcastle, right on the shores of Lough Foyle, Co. Donegal. Although the new station telephone number is being read out regularly, (077) 82304, it does appear that advertising etc., is being directed across the border to their P.O. Box 846, Balleymoney, Co. Antrim address. To celebrate the arrival in the new surroundings, the station is running a competition where the winner will receive a mini break in the aforementioned country hotel. Numerous public appearances by Northside jocks, on both sides of the border are advertised and reported on, and this, along with scores of requests per hour, suggests that the station has a great many listeners and over a quite wide area too. Frequencies are 846kHz.AM (well worth checking out for after dusk) and 98.0MHz.FM.

**Co. Cavan:** It was stated by Eamon Cooke last Sunday, that Erneside Radio had returned. We can almost be certain that no transmissions emanate presently on 1251kHz., but it is possible that FM transmissions have gone out and in fact one such report tells us that they were actually active last Sunday.

**Co. Galway:** It was noted in one of the Irish national papers that a Quincentennial Radio was operating out of Galway, confirming our reports of last week. The station can be found on FM, 98.4MHz., locally and has been noted since 9th January.

**Co. Cork:** No stations on the air as far as we know, but plenty of activity from WKLR in Bandon, who are appealing for funds to help pay for the licence application (about £25,000!). A WKLR supporters club has been set up and a £30 ticket will entitle the holder to 3 monthly draws with £12,500 in cash prizes. Advertising has been extensive in the local press.

**OFF-SHORE STATIONS.** A couple of anniversaries this week courtesy of Stuart Dobson. On 2nd February it will be 2 years since a full 'Caroline Overdrive' was last heard, although ironically a similar un-named service began this week, during the night, on 819kHz. Friday 3rd February sees the first anniversary of the m.v. Communicator sailing into Harwich for what could have been the final time, as it still sits on a mud bank adjacent to a Mistley scrap yard.

**Caroline 558.** After a quiet period, several big changes were apparent since last weekend. First off though, the weekday line-up (up to 20th), prior to the change was... 05:00 Steve Conway... 09:00 Caroline Martin... 13:00 Nick Jackson... 16:00 Dave Asher... 20:00 Nick Jackson. Closedown was just after midnight, following the news and theme tune. Friday morning (20th) saw Caroline Martin and Steve Conway hosting together between 08:15 and 09:00, making interesting listening. Caroline continued with her normal show at 09:00, although Steve popped in to do a quick link at 10:24. Unlike previous weeks, 24 hour operation was not in evidence at the weekend due to the shortage of staff. However the hours were extended on Saturday night / Sunday morning until 02:00, with a Dutch presenter, Jacob Philips being brought in to host between 20:00 and 22:00 that evening (also on Sunday at the same time). Jacob is actually the cook, and not a regular deejay on Radio 819. Also making one of his rare appearances over the weekend was Dave Fisher. He hosted just one hour, between 00:00 and 01:00 on Sunday morning. The station was late on the air on Sunday (22nd) at 06:05, when Steve Conway hosted his last show for this stint. He was on at breakfast time and has now left the ship for a well earned rest. Several different voices, both old and new began to appear during Monday (23rd), with the first sign of a major change noticeable with Dave Asher hosting the breakfast show. Caroline Martin was in here usual slot, and then at 13:00 saw the return of Andy Bradgate. Another regular to the team, Rob Harrison followed at 16:00, and during his 'Powerdrive' show, a new voice, Richard West, was heard on the news broadcasts. After only a short time on land, Steve Richards has also returned, and hosted between 19:00 and 22:00. At this point, the station were announcing 24 hour operations once again, with the

overnight slots being shared between Steve Richards and Nick Jackson. Line-up for Tuesday 24th, (the first full 24 hours), was 02:00 Steve Richards... 05:00 Dave Asher... 09:00 Caroline Martin... 13:00 Andy Bradgate... 16:00 Rob Harrison... 19:00 Steve Richards... 22:00 Nick Jackson. The line-up was changed around yet again on Wednesday (25th), when Richard West hosted his first show at 02:00 that morning. Rob Harrison was missing from 'Powerdrive' on Wednesday, after just two shows, and was replaced by Steve Richards. Rob had not disappeared however, as those listening to 819kHz on Tuesday night would have noticed. The line-up for that day was... 02:00 Richard West... 05:00 Dave Asher... 09:00 Caroline Martin... 13:00 Andy Bradgate... 16:00 Steve Richards... 20:00 Richard West... 22:00 Nick Jackson. It appears as though the line-up changed yet again during the latter half of the week, and Rob has slipped back onto the 558 service, although at time of writing we are not sure of his exact times.

Tuesday (24th), saw the station heavily advertising a full 24 hour schedule, and also a new album service through the night on 819kHz. The promotions stated that as of that evening there would be an L.P. format on this channel, hosted by Andy Bradgate, Rob Harrison, and anyone else who wandered into the studio. The hourly news bulletins remain, hosted usually by whoever is on the air at the time. Many listeners will have noticed that the Coca-Cola advert has now disappeared from the station. This is due to interference (threats?) from the British authorities in the running of this company's advertising campaign, which subsequently caused a cancellation of the playing of the commercial on Caroline. Work is continuing to be carried out on the aerial system, and weather permitting, there should be a noticeable signal increase in the signal, in a few weeks time. The date of 1st February which is being banded about on Radio 819, as the date for the increase is a little premature, but work is said to be fairly advanced. The ship has recently had a massive delivery of water and fuel, which will last for the next 3 or 4 months. In fact the ship is lower in the water than it has been for some time, and this caused a passing ferry to call them up and ask if the Ross was sinking!

We have been requested to ask everyone who writes to the station's Spanish address, to only send either postcards or letters. Apparently there are no problems with these, but packages are being looked at carefully by the customs, and often never reach the ship. Don't forget to keep sending in your Top 10 favourite records, in order that the 'All Time Top 1000' can be compiled in time for the 25th Birthday celebrations at Easter 1989. You might also drop them a birthday card at the same time, to decorate the studios. Letters are getting through much faster these days which is why the on-air staff are encouraging listeners to write.

**819kHz.** Several times over the past few weeks, music programmes have been noted on 819kHz. following the end of the Viewpoint 819 service, usually without any announcements. However, after being heavily advertised on 558kHz. on Tuesday 24th, Rob Harrison came on the air at 22:00, after the last Viewpoint programme, and proceeded to play a variety of rock/album music into the night. Rob finished at 01:00, and was replaced by Colin Muesli-Bar (otherwise known as fun loving Andy Bradgate-but he wouldn't admit it). During the first couple of hours, Rob requested 'personal top 5's' for airing on the station. An actual name for the new service has not been given, but it appears as though the term 'Overdrive' is not going to be used. Whatever it is going to be called, it will be enthusiastically welcomed by rock/album/alternative music lovers.

It appears as though one or two of the Viewpoint 819 programme organisations are not satisfied with the current response to the output on 819kHz. As a result are threatening to pull out. Since the money raised from this service is enabling the engineering work to be carried out quickly, the Caroline organisation are requesting that listeners write to inform the various religious groups that their programmes are actually being listened to. Remember that the more religious groups which buy airtime on 819kHz, the more chance Caroline has, to expand its 558 service area.

**World Mission Radio.** After being off the air for almost two weeks, World Mission Radio returned to the air on Monday 23rd January, on the usual 6215kHz. channel. In fact the service had been off the air due to the aerial wire falling down. Parts were obviously required to effect repairs, and these arrived at the weekend.

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# MARINE BROADCASTING NEWS

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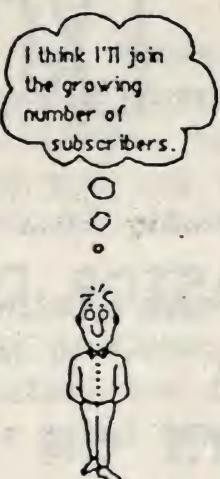
Issue Number 10, the January edition of Marine Broadcasting News is now available if you are not already a subscriber why not send for a copy, or you may of course subscribe for as many editions as you wish.

MBN Issue 10 is packed with information; archive press reports, and articles all of interest to the offshore radio enthusiast.

Also in every issue of the magazine you find "The Offshore Quiz" to test your knowledge, and the Caroline 558 line-up chart which tells you who was on the air and when in the previous month. (Also includes 819 & 6215).

Send £1.30 per issue if living in UK or £1.70 if living in Europe. Cheques payable to "Marine Broadcasting News" to:-

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THE SPECIALIST OFFSHORE RADIO MAGAZINE

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**FOR SALE:** Pirate radio D.J. has for sale... programmes, airchecks, jingles and other material covering 25 years of free radio. SAE for list to John Bennett, Ardmore, St. Georges Road, Abergale, Clwyd LL22 7HB, North Wales.

**FOR SALE:** "Hi-Tech Heroes" by Ad Visser, the Radio 558 theme tune. A quite rare deleted continental L.P. featuring synthesised music, our colleague in Belgium has a couple of mint copies for sale for £12.00 each. Anyone interested should send money here and allow 21 days delivery.

**ADVERT:** "Tony would like to hear from anyone who has recordings of Radio Telstar (London) with Kid and Horace, the Golden Boys! The station broadcast on Sunday nights up to about 1983 on 92.8MHz. Write Tony, c/o Stuart Turner, 7 Eden Way, North Brickhill, Bedford.

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## LAND-BASED STATIONS:

**Bristol** We left the situation last time, on New Year's Day, with just one station operating, Savage Yet Tender Radio (104.4-stereo), as the three other stations had closed down in order to obtain a licence. During the 'Doug Savage' and 'Pete Tender' show, the former was heard to rebuke other stations' attempts to obtain licences, and hinted that they would be tightly controlled. S.Y.T. Radio can still be contacted at Box S.Y.T., c/o 37 Stokes Croft, Bristol BS1 3PY, although as the new shop has yet to evolve there, mail may well be delayed. The first weekend of January arrived, and Savage Yet Tender Radio were the sole providers of free radio in the city. Their signal on 8th, was superb, but confusion with programme tapes getting mixed up occurred again (as on 1st Jan.) These had been sorted out by 22:20, after which it was stated that the station was to be featured in a forthcoming edition of the 'Western Daily Press'. S.Y.T. Radio carried on into the early hours of Monday morning.

Saturday 14th January saw a big surprise on the band. At 104.2MHz, in mono, B.A.D. Radio returned to the air with test transmissions. A thirty minute loop tape which included station ID's from Bill Mitchell was played until 23:00, when 'Captain Jamaica' hosted the first reggae programme of the much rumoured grand return of Bristol Amalgamated Deejays. Programming ran continuously through the night, and the station was still going strong the next morning, Monday 16th. After 10:00, 104.2MHz was being announced (previous to this the former 105.2 channel was being given out). At 17:25, after some problems earlier, a voice announced that the test transmissions were over and spoke of dis-satisfaction with the transmitter, and finished by saying that programmes were due to commence the following afternoon at 16:00.

Savage Yet Tender Radio (104.4-stereo) were late on, on Sunday 15th, programmes commencing at 18:30 with 'Modge's Wonderland of Sound'. It was during this show, that B.A.D. Radio (104.2-mono) activated its transmitter then, just before 20:00, B.A.D. Radio began testing with programmes from Raw Master Dee and Mix Master M. The latter was heard to request all the Sunday B.A.D. presenters to turn up at the studio, as everything was back to normal. The station signed off at 23:49 due to continuing tx problems (a hum), promising to be back in a few days. Back on S.Y.T. Radio, it was announced that as from 22nd, programmes would commence even earlier, at 15:30.

Many thanks once again to Terry for his detailed reports. More next time.

**Manchester /Cheshire :** Outlook 96.3 (96.3MHz) were back up in strength this week for their regular Sunday evening broadcast between 20:00 and 22:00. Four station were heard most days in the city, broadcasting a variety of soul and reggae music. These are Super

Fresh (98.3), WBLS (102.4), Laser (103.7) and Unity (104.8). An additional station heard on occasions over the New year period was FAB FM on 97.0MHz.

**Nottingham.** Heatwave Community Radio held a successful first birthday party on Friday night, 20th January. Just before midnight that evening, the station had a few transmitter problems, and until Sunday lunchtime (22nd) were transmitting on very low power. At this point full power was resumed, on the slightly higher channel of 105.1MHz. The station are currently announcing a telephone number especially for prospective advertisers, of 0860 549512. Up and coming features on the station include a jamming session with the staff of London's RJR, and a Valentine function on 10th February featuring some of the female staff from Birmingham's P.C.R.L. It is certainly encouraging to see some co-operation between stations.

**The Midlands.** Radio P.C.R.L. and Enterprise FM continue to remain silent. Powerhouse Radio (105.3) continues with its announced 24 hour schedule, and covering a wide area. On Sunday night (23rd) it was announced that they were going off early in order to carry out essential work on the audio equipment (the decks were sounding a little tired that afternoon!) The new station FM 104 (104.0) was heard again, over the whole of last weekend, beginning transmissions

YES P.C.R.L. RADIO WE HAVE TO GO BUT WE ARE GOING OUT WITH A BANG

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DELIVERY TO U.K. CAN BE ARRANGED.  
PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME OF THIS EQUIPMENT MAY REQUIRE A LICENCE.

on Friday evening. Many of the former P.C.R.L. deejays were heard on 22nd saying goodbye to their listeners. later on that weekend, Music Master was heard discussing the implications of the legalisation of P.C.R.L. It was also mentioned that the DTI have dropped the remaining two charges against P.C.R.L., so there will be no trial in February. Cecil described P.C.R.L. as the only station which, when raided, offered the DTI a cup of tea! At the 'P.C.R.L. Off Air Party' information sheets were given out, and people were urged to sign a petition. Fellow weekenders Fresh FM (95.0) were also heard on Saturday and Sunday. Also on the air throughout the weekend were Metro Radio (104.95). They use an address of :- c/o Non-Stop Records, 14 St. Martin's House Parade, Bull Ring, Birmingham. Centre Radio (99.2) were noted on Sunday 22nd January, and later on at 16:26 they were also heard further up the band on 105.85MHz. The station gives an address of :- 35a Broad Street, Kingswinford, West Midlands DY6 9LR.

Elsewhere Quest FM were noted last weekend on a slightly higher channel of 103.7MHz. Also a new station called 106 FM was heard testing on 105.95MHz on Tuesday 17th and wednesday 18th. The programmes were mainly of chart music, and also contained some questionable language and jokes. Noteable by their absence recently have been Local Black Country Radio, and U.K. Radio.

Across in Warwickshire, a station called Hysteria 107 was noted over the festive period, and was said to be putting out a good signal just south of Coventry. 107.4MHz was mentioned at one point. The station was heard several times up until New Year's Eve. No more details are known.

Merseyside : No stations were monitored here last Friday, but on Saturday morning, both North Coast Radio on 1350kHz. and Radio Merseywaves, with the unmistakable Dave Collins in control, on 1242kHz., were noted early, from breakfast. The station mailing address is 126 Curlew Way, Moreton, Wirral, Merseyside L44 7FF (NO station names on envelopes, please). Across on N.C.R., 'Michelin Man' was the host for the breakfast show. Nothing was noted from Radio Atlantis (1197kHz.) in the morning. However a carrier appeared during early afternoon, and programming from Rick Dane was well underway by 3pm. Atlantis was again late on the air Sunday (10am to 10pm is announced), but by mid-day the station had sprung to life. Monday (23rd) saw just North Coast Radio on the air with programmes in the afternoon, although the carrier had been on all morning. The carrier was also noted on Tuesday morning, but had

disappeared by lunchtime. Nothing more has been heard by time of writing on Friday afternoon (27th).

Yorkshire, Humberside & Derbyshire. Starting off in Hull this week, where an unidentified station playing rock music was heard one evening during the week on 104.7MHz. No announcements were heard.

In West Yorkshire, both stations in Bradford, Harmony Radio (105.3) and Paradise City Radio (104.9) have been intermittent this week, and were missing for a time over the weekend. Harmony cut off suddenly on Friday night, and didn't return until around 17:00 on Saturday. However both stations are now back on the air. The reason for the absences is not known. Leeds was again quiet, with just Lethal FM being heard last weekend on 97.9MHz. The station went stereo on Friday night, but has not been heard since Sunday (22nd). Telstar Radio from Halifax made another appearance on Sunday evening. This station gets out very well considering it runs on low power.

Activity in South Yorkshire was also thin on the ground this week. Radio Britannia did not appear last Friday, but made a full afternoon broadcast on Sunday (22nd). The station hopes to have some mini-posters produced in the near future. The only other station on the air was Rebel Radio (105.4), with Scooter Jones.

LONDON WEEKEND SURVEY - 19th Jan - 24th Jan. '89.

"Overnight, the weather closed in and London became muffled in a fog that was cold, clammy and in the sodium street lighting, took on the appearance of weak custard. Driving home in the early hours of Friday morning, after a late shift I hadn't wanted to do, was no fun, especially as I had woken late after the previous night's partyette. (A few friends dropped by to celebrate a birthday I wanted to forget, and we had celebrated 30 years of rock and roll and demolished a fridge full of Grolsch). It was whilst I was driving home that I came across the aptly named Graveyard Master, who was snugly esconced in the womb-like warmth of the north London studios of SUPREME RADIO (90.45). He came on spraying out words at the speed of the crazed urgency of a Uzi sub-machine gun at full stutter. In the tradition of the best dub toasters, he kept up a relentless, non-stop verbal assault for two hours as he attempted to name the entire population of London, most of whom seemed to be related to him. He even managed to make the entertainments listings sound interesting, by turning them into a rap, done over a backing track. Whether anyone actually comprehended what was being said was another matter, as the Concorde-like speed of delivery was inclined to leave the listener breathless, whilst the Graveyard Master appeared inexhaustable and never seemed to draw breath. He also has the show running on mid-Saturday mornings. In the words of the vernacular - check it out.

The un-named Greek station that had been tape-looping on 98.10 when it started last week, and had been giving STAGE RADIO (98.10) kittens, had dropped down to 97.95 by Friday, thus saving the London weekenders from carrying out their embarrassing threat to jam the Greeks. The greeks had been intermittent over the week, probably due to tape deck malfunctions, but finally went live for the weekend. As forecast here last week, HARP FM (88.45) changed their tape from top 40 to a mix of sixties soul and seventies reggae. Driving the music along was a voice that is fast becoming as familiar as that of 'Mr Voice-over' himself, Mark Damon. Harp went live for the weekend, but were back to test tapes by Monday. Harp and the Greeks weren't the only ones testing, the new year had brought forward a whole plethora of new stations testing. Two, as yet un-named, outfits were testing on Saturday on about 93.8 and also 92.3. The latter went live for Saturday night, but remained shy and reticent about their identity. A late entrant heard testing for the first time was noted on Tuesday morning but is believed to have been around for a few days. Still un-named, they are running a tape loop of dance music and promising a 7 day/ 24 hour, commercial free, non-stop music station. In these days, that does not make sense as even the weekend and hobby stations are seeking advertising, if only to cover the cost of lost transmitters. The possibility is that this is the birth of a 'Power Play' only, station, playing paid for 'plug' discs only. The linking voice was familiar and may have been the same as that on HITS/CITY SIDE, who have not been heard now for over a week. Despite strenuous efforts, CITY SIDE has not noticeably increased its advertising

base over the last few months. Their few, and tight lipped, staff, with almost impenetrable security may have something to do with this, as it is practically impossible to talk to anyone connected with the station. As a purely commercial venture, they may well have decided to pull out of top 40 radio and enter the lucrative black music market.

Q 102 (102.40) have been cheekily sticking out a tuning signal all week, after running out of test tapes, which must have given The BIG APPLE (102.50) next door, a bit of a headache. They resumed a test tape late on Friday night and went live for the weekend. Like Harp at the other end of the dial, they too resumed a test pattern on Monday. A solid signal which should have taken it halfway to the coast, has been rudely interfered with by the arrival, also on test, of the Brighton ILR Southern Sound's new filler service for Eastbourne. Q 102 are now believed to be contemplating a move back down to 102 itself. Former dominators, TIME RADIO (102.20) are becoming more intermittent, and have not been heard for more than a few hours a day, and not at all since Sunday.

Apart from those testing this week, there were a number of stations heard for the first time. Believed to be the successor to City Radio, LONDON FM have turned up on 94.6 this week. They have pre-empted the use of the name that LWR were known to be planning to use as the title of their new set up when they return. New up on 90.7 are COMMUNITY RADIO NETWORK, which is the new working name for Brixton's Passion Radio, where the initials were often used as an alternative ID. Missing from the station this week, is evening drive time reggae super jock, Commander B, who is sadly missed. Also heard for the first time on Saturday were REFLECTION (89.90), believed to be coming out of S.E. London. A station that has been locked into on a number of occasions in the last month or two, but so far remains unidentified, is coming up in the shadow of ASIAN COMMUNITY RADIO (103.35). Claiming the same slot as ACR, but actually coming up on 103.50, it remains unidentified due to reception problems caused by it being blasted into oblivion (except for one spot in the middle of Waterloo Bridge) by BBC Radio Northants. All these stations needless to say, are programming in the broad spectrum of Black Music. The only exception so far, has been an Arabic or Asian station, heard briefly on Sunday night on 105.10.

Missing again this week were E. London's WLIB (90.95), who returned to the air briefly after a spell of down time caused by not wishing to interfere with the local CellNet operation. Confident that all the problems in the link system had been ironed out, they returned to the air only to find that within a short time they were receiving numerous complaints from a local taxi outfit. So, with red faces all round, they switched off once again and are now sitting around impatiently awaiting the arrival of the engineer to re-jig the whole set up. At the time of writing, there was still no sign of a return, but they are expected back at any time. Also causing problems, but brazening it out, were the recently activated rockers, RADIO FREE LONDON (92.00). No strangers over the last few years to rogue transmitters, last Saturday saw our carefree lads sproggaging all over the band. At one point, Lynyrd Skynyrd's 'Freebird' could be heard accompanying a taxi control at the bottom end of the band, amid many complaints of the interference. Despite this, RFL were the only rockers to hit the band this weekend. Rock FM are still in the process of acquiring a new rig, but the arrival of the powerhouse London FM in their area, will inevitably cause them problems. Top 40 tape loopers, CITY SIDE have not been heard and there has been no Magic from S. London's Mike Summers. There were red face all round as Golden Groovers, VERONICA 102 switched the big rig into high power on Sunday, only to hear massive feedback coming out of the hot end. The super smoothies retired from the affray with anorak hoods pulled well down over their heads to cover their embarrassment. By Tuesday, everything had been finally sorted out and armed with a truckload of back-up gear, the intrepid band of Privateers once again scaled the heights to go for an unannounced test. With fingers and everything else that could be, crossed, they waited with baited breath as supremo, Gary Stevens, pulled the switch. This time, everything went perfectly and for three hours, the Big Rig pumped out a stereo signal that Time would have been proud of, and produced an avalanche of response. Maybe a weekday

spot might be more viable.

Late news just arrived...it seems as though the DoTI men have been on the prowl on Tuesday 25th, in the east end, where a number of stations were taken out, or quickly retired from the fray, including WLIB which had just begun testing.... details next week...

Heard this weekend were.... HARP (88.45) - SUNRISE (88.70) - REFLECTION (89.80) - RJR (90.00) - RTR (90.20) - SUPREME (90.45) - CRN (90.70) - SRI (90.85) - SKY (91.70) - RFL (92.00) - Reggae tests (92.30) - STUDIO (92.65) - STAR (93.00) - STARPOINT (93.25) - Soul tests (93.75) - LAZER (94.00 st.) - CCR (94.35) - LONDON FM (94.60) - Soul tests (96.90) - JOY (97.85) - Greek (97.95) - STAGE (98.10) - TIME (102.2) - Q 102 (102.4 st.) - SOBA (102.50) - SLR (102.7) - SWITCH (103.00) - ACR (103.35) - Reggae (103.5) - PEOPLES (103.75) - GCR (104.45) and Arab / Asian tests (105.10)."

Our continued thanks to Sid for his thorough report.

#### SHORT WAVE STATIONS:

Rock Radio International regret that due to circumstances beyond their control they will not be on air until Sunday 5th February. Requests, dedications and reception reports due for reading out on 22nd and 29th January will be carried forward until this date. They apologise for the inconvenience.

We understand that Sunshine Radio, the French pirate will broadcast in February (probably on 5th) between 08:00 and 11:00 on either 6975, 7125 or 6325kHz. The former being the most likely.

Log for Sunday 22nd January 1989.

6230kHz...JOLLY ROGER RADIO, at 10:06gmt.

6242kHz...ATLANTA RADIO, at 09:52gmt.

6273kHz...UNID., at 11:17gmt.

6275kHz...ATLANTA RADIO 2, at 11:28gmt.

6280kHz...RADIO ATLANTIS S.W., at 11:16gmt.

6299kHz...RADIO ORION, at 12:00gmt.

6318kHz...W.L.R., at 12:50gmt.

6582kHz...UNID., at 10:31gmt.

6874kHz...FALCON RADIO, at 09:50gmt.

6874kHz...I.R.R.S. D-X SHOW, at 10:29gmt.

6910kHz...RADIO DUBLIN, at 09:48gmt.

7374kHz...RADIO LIMIT INT. (?), at 10:17gmt.

7374kHz...RADIO WAVES INT., at 10:23gmt.

7374kHz...RADIO LUCE, at 11:36gmt.

Conditions today, although not the best, were a great improvement on the previous two Sundays. Most stations were noted with readable signals all morning. Logs in **BOLD** are ours here in Blackpool, others were kindly supplied by Ken (Scotland), David (Norfolk), Podney (Cornwall), Stuart (Staffordshire), South Surrey Monitoring and Neal (Midlands). Podney wishes us to pass on greetings from himself, to all his friends in the free radio world. Due to his current situation, Podney is unable to spend as much time listening and corresponding as he previously did.

Radio Jolly Roger were coming through here in Blackpool with very good strength all morning. Their address is P.O. Box 39, Waterford, Eire. When writing to P.O. Box 39, please do not put the name of any radio station on the envelope.

The unidentified on 6273kHz. was not thought to be Rock Radio International, as the station announced they would not be on the air this week. The transmission was only brief, and shortly after we tuned in, the transmitter cut off and was not heard again.

Atlanta Radio were heard with a 10th birthday special, and a full service on 6242kHz. A second transmitter began operating around 11:30, with separate programmes at first (calling itself Atlanta Radio 2), and then joining up with programmes on the main service.

Radio Atlantis Shortwave were announcing an address of 118 Kingfisher Drive, Eastbourne, East Sussex, England.

The unidentified station on 6582kHz was thought to be the same as noted last week (Batida?), and was only heard briefly before it faded out.

The operator of Radio Waves International informs us that they should have a medium wave outlet in operation soon on 1615kHz, under the name 'Radio Star Night'. All 'pirate' stations, especially Irish ones, are welcome to get in contact with the station for possible relay facilities. For more details write to R.W.I., BP No. 130, 92504 Rueil Cedex, France.